Takami no Kago

Divine Protection of Many Gods

多神の加護

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Synopsis :

Jinno Hibiki, who was summoned to another world without being instructed to do anything in particular.

With [Divine Protection], that strengthen his status, he got when he was summoned, he uses it to help him living as an adventurer in this world.

Everyday is a day he spend going back and fro between the forest nearby and the Adventurer Guild. And some day, he meets a slave.

Info :

http://www.novelupdates.com/series/divine-protection-of-many-gods/

Raws :

http://ncode.syosetu.com/n9838bp/

Translator :

https://undecentlnt.wordpress.com/projects/takami-no-kago/

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Episode 1

Divine protection of many Gods

Hibiki Jinno was just an average high school student. His grades were average.

Jinno suddenly felt very dizzy on his usual way home. In one moment he felt so dizzy that he closed his eyes momentarily, but when he opened them he was in an unfamiliar world. With just a glance he knew immediately that this is a different world. First, there were two suns in the sky. Looking around he noticed that there were lizard looking people and people with animal ears walking around and talking.

“Where am I, did I fall a sleep?”

When Jinno surveyed his surroundings, he noticed that the roads, floors, and building were all made out of stone. This looked just like a medieval fantasy to him.

“Hey, you! Get outta my way.”

“Eh?”

There seems to have been a horse drawn carriage behind Jinno, it could no longer proceed on its way since he was blocking their path.

“I…I’m sorry. I’ll move out of the way.”

Although I was feeling flustered, I immediately moved out of the way.

“Seriously, what a country hick!”

The driver of the carriage starts leaving, but not before he makes a snorting sounds, and drives off. I could only stare at it as it drove off.

“Where on Earth am I?”

Almost answering his own question, he noticed that his clothes matched those around him.

“What are these strange clothes?”

In one word, they looked like adventure’s clothing. Like the ones in a videogame. Looking carefully he noticed a sword on his waist. On the other side of his waist, he noticed a small leather bag containing 20 small coins. Perhaps this is the currency of this world.

“First of all I’m not penniless yet, but what will I do inorder to survive now.”

Episode 2

One week has passed since I have come to this world. Initially I thought this was a dream, but apparently it isn't. I have come to understand one thing in th<is one week. The name of the town I am currently staying is called Bureto located on the Angel Kingdom.

T/N: I suck at names like I previously mentioned, so if anyone can come up with something better here you go: "アンゲル大陸のブレトという街だという事"

I now know the value of the coins in my leather bag. And I have now become an Adventurer.

The town of Bureto seems to be a walled in city, with a large stone wall spanning the outer circumference of the town. There is a town roughly in the center of the Angel Kingdom, that has the same name, also located in the Angel Kingdom. The coins that they use goes as follows: Copper coin, Large copper coin, Silver coin, Large Silver coin, Gold coin, and Large Gold coin. By the way 1 copper coin is equivalent to 1 Gal, and 1 large copper coin is equivalent to 10 Gal. Here's a list of what I found in the leather pouch on my hip:

6 copper coins

8 large copper coins

3 Silver coins

1 Large Silver coin

3 Gold coins

This was a total of 31, 386 Garu. After living here for one week, I can only infer that 1 Garu= 100 Yen. If I was to convert all of that into Japanese Yen I would have roughly 3 million yen, in my leather skin bag. Scary.

T/N: I Don't know why the currency is called Gal, or even if its a correct TL. So if anyone would like to enlighten me, be my guest.

The present cost of living is alright, but I have zero income, and if this keeps up, all of my funds will in turn reach 0. Looking for a new source of income I found the job of an『Adventurer』would be a good source of income for myself. An『Adventurer』is an occupation that handles or completes job assigned to them from a guild. Obviously they do monster subjugations, but that isn't everything that they do, sometimes they have to help out in construction projects, or even look after public work projects. Moreover, when you register at the Adventurers guild they will ensure that the request are legit. When I went to register, I noticed that this is an entirely different world than what I was used to.

First of all, in this world『Occupational category job』exists.

When I went to register, I registered as a『Swordsman』. Apparently this was determined inherently.

It's possible to change the job category I have even though it's determined at birth, but that would take a long time.

Also in this world there are those who are deemed『Sub-human』, they're called Demi-humans, and they belong to the non-human tribes.

The best surprise I had in the week was that I obtained『Divine Protection』. This was surprisingly confirmed when I went to the Adventurer's Guild to register. I think this was a present from a God. It looks like very few people receive『Divine Protection』as a gift. Also those who have『Divine Protection』seem to have their abilities improved in certain areas. On the guild card that I have received, it is written『Divine Protection』as a general term, but only those who posses the ability truly know what it means. Even though I have『Divine Protection』, I wonder what it is….

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Hibiki Jinno Lv. 1 Swordsman 16 years old

Physical Strength 300(+100)

Muscle Strength 75(+25)

Agility 75(+25)

Intelligence 150(+40)

Luck 225(+75)

[The Divine Protection of the Battle God] Rise status of combat job (large) Impossible to overlap Target Party

[The Divine Protection of Wisdom God] Rise status of magic job (large) Impossible to overlap Target: Party

[The Divine protection of carpenter God] Rise status of production workers (large) Impossible to overlap Target: Party

[The Divine protection of Healing God] Rise status of sacred job (large) Impossible to overlap Target: Party

[Divine protection of judgement(Appraisal) God] Able to check the status of anything. Target: Myself

[Divine protection of a trade(Merchant) God] Effect: Makes trading advantageous. Target: Myself

[Divine protection of light] Effect: Cures all abnormal status effects. Target: Who I designate

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Wow, I feel like a cheat character. When I check their parameter status like muscle strength and agility, there seem to all have a “+” added to them. I don’t understand their original abilities, but I do know that they are in numerical values that can rise. For now there doesn’t seem to be any other threatening parties in the town’s vicinity.

Episode 3

On my way back from the guild, there was a large crowd of people forming on the main street.

“Today for our last merchandise we have a girl from the Tiger-beast people. For this fellow I’m willing to sell her for 2 measly gold coins!”

Looks like a slave dealer. He seems to be respected by those around him, since he sells good slaves. Therefore if I want to purchase a slave I need to be rich or a noble? Nobles don’t live around here, yet most of the building on the main street are big, plus the Adventurer’s Guild is nearby. This is probably the way this guy does business, aiming at these type of people.

It’s really getting noisy around here. Let’s see 2 gold coins is roughly 2 million yen. That’s a lot of money for just a slave, considering it’s relatively cheap to live freely. It’s 1/10 of the market price if I make a bad purchase.

“This kind of this is insignificant?”

“This fellow, has『Curse』Possession.”

After hearing that most of the surrounding people lose interest and leave, only leaving one person remaining, the slave dealer.

“Ahh! It’s okay to be around her, because i’m around her and I’m fine!”

“ This isn’t a joke! Who in their right minds buys a slave that has『Curse』Possession!”

If『Divine protection』is a god’s present, then『Curse』 is said to be perverseness present from a malevolent deity. Its effect varies just as『Divine protection. However unlike『Divine protection, the person with『Curse』doesn’t even know what the effects are.

The biggest difference between my [Divine protection] and [Curse] is that [Curse] can spread to other people. Therefore a [Curse] is widely disliked. There are a lot of things you can [Curse] in this world. For example if an item dropped from a treasure chest in a dungeon was [Cursed], then it is said that the higher a level demon there is the most likely they applied the [Curse] on the item(s) then.

However, there are only a few things that can maintain a [Cursed] status for a long period of time. In those cases, the church can perform [Dispel Curse], in order to get rid of the status. The church supports excellent adventurers, since it’s against the church’s doctrine to have monsters and demons dwelling in dungeons.

Although the dispatch of priests are being carried out in every Adventurer’s Guild is a timely manner, the true purpose of this was to get income from the occasional adventurer in need of a priest’s help. God’s clergyman “healers” can use recovery magic, and other abnormal recovery magics, in addition to [Dispel Curse]. Therefore is there is at-least one healer in a part, their survivability rates dramatically increases. For an adventurer, someone with [Healing Priest] as their [job category] is someone you want very badly. And when adventurers get or come into contact with a [Curse] that they don’t know about, they employ a [Priest]. And that’s how the church makes money off adventurers. Being a priest in an adventures party is only like a part-time job when earning money,

because every time adventurers need a [Priest] they have to go to a church to get one. And when they go to a church they give an [Offering] as well. Therefore a person who has received a [Curse] from a monster or dungeon, get the [Curse] quickly dispelled. Even at the minimum an adventurer can get their [Curse] dispelled when they're returning to a town.

T/N: I know you might get a little confused here don't worry, all it really says is that there are certain priest within a church that can do more than an average one, which makes them highly sought after.

However, not all "Curse spells" can be removed. For example if you were born with a [Curse] congenitally, that [Curse] effect seems to be so strong that even when a priest uses [Dispel Curse] it doesn't work at all. In other words it's highly likely that this female of the Tiger Beast-man was born with this [Curse] status, then that would mean the [Curse] strength in her would be very strong. Suddenly the [Divine protection of Judgement(Appraisal) God] activates as I look in the eyes of the female Tiger Beast-man. It displays her status.

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Aria Lvl.4 Age: 15

Physical Strength 250(-250)

Muscle Strength 80(-80)

Agility 155(-155)

Intelligence 40(-40)

Luck 0(-80)

『Curse of restraint』Causes the target to have zero luck, and reduces all stats to zero.

T/N: After translating most of Ch.4 I made and error with the curse. The number in front of the parenthesis's is half of the original, and then it's subtracted from it again, hence the number in the parenthesis. If you still don't get it just be on the look out for Ch. 4 then, because that should clear this mess up.

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Wow that's an incredible curse that halves the persons stats. Aria you may have noticed by now that I have been staring at your absentminded face for a while now. Yes, she's a pretty girl. The bright color of her short hair, made her look cute, although it was a little dirty. Excellent female figure. Its the kind of body that instantly draws in your attention.

"Damn it I thought so! If it comes down to it I'll just throw her in a dungeon until she dies"

I have to say that sounds quite dangerous. Perhaps I should think about buying her, and bringing her with me into dungeons. However, why would the slave dealer try and sell someone who has the [Curse] status. I think he half expected this sort of thing to happen.

“Just a moment?”

“Oi, you want to buy this girl?”

The slave dealer answered a little desperately. I wonder if he has given up on selling her.

“I think depending on a condition.”

“Really! you want to buy this girl?”

The male slave dealer’s eye widened with excitement.

“Why do you want to buy this girl with a [Curse] status even though no one else will?”

“Well, is there a rule stating that you can buy something that a slave dealer is selling.”

“Is there such a rule?”

“Indeed, It has been determined that slave trading is legal in this country. I was just wondering since I want to know as much as possible about this [Curse]

Since in this country its not required to state if someone has a [Curse],

since there is no way of managing it. To do so one would have to go to the Adventurer's Guild and get it registered just like my [Divine Protection] gift.

"This girl was treated as a good-for-nothing in her village. Even her strength for a Tiger Beast-man is weak."

Aria put her head down. Its seem likes its fatal for a Tiger Beast-man to be weak. Nobody seemed to want to take care of her in her village, after her parents died. Therefore, is seems like they sold her into slavery. However I question that. Her Agility seems higher than me, and she's level. 4 even if her stats have been reduced by the curse, she's still very impressive.

"Tentatively, I can do the dishes and house cleaning. But as for my combat abilities they're very weak, even though I'm from the Tiger Beast-man tribe."

"I see but what about the price?"

T/N: Just buy her already you imbecile. What more do you need? A divine message from one of the Gods that protect you?

I have full intentions of purchasing Aria, but not at full price. The amount of cash I have on hand is kind of low, so I would like to haggle the price down a bit. The present attitude of the slave dealer tells me he would have to sell her right away, but would he give me her at a discount.

When I first came into this world I was by myself, which made me

slightly nervous at first. I want someone else to rely on. In addition, I would like to try it. Aria started at me regrettably, while the slave dealer gave a big nod.

"This child is hopeless, if I don't sell her now I would be at a loss, what if I sold her for 15,000 Gal."

Now that's cheap. I wonder if the [Divine protection of the Trade(Merchant) God] kicked in?

"I see. That's a fair price."

I took out 2 gold coins from my leather skin bag.

"Oh, aha!"

The slave dealer quickly took the 2 gold coins and gave me back large silver coins and silver coins.

"Look here, that man is your master."

While saying that he pushed Aria's back bringing her closer to me, while the slave dealer began to leave.

"Ah, thank you master."

Aria stopped several steps from my side, and thanked me like this.

When I thought about it after a while, I realized that Aria was staring at me.

“In addition to I hope you treat me well Aria. Is it always this open in this area. However a very good guy owns a merchant trading office, you may visit it if you would like, but my shop Kyaruto Company is located near the east gate of the city.”

T/N: I probably got the name of the store wrong, so don’t hold it against me.

“I understand.”

Ever since the slave dealer sold Aria, ha has begun cleaning up his street stall cheerfully.

“Well then, we should go.”

I decided to lead Aria to the usual Inn by pulling her hand along with me.

“Oh, okay.”

Aria seems to be nervous, although I am not particularly used to women. However, I stretched my back, stood up straight, and began to walked with dignity as her master should.

Episode 4

When I returned to the usual Inn, I asked them to change it to a double room. Switching rooms went smoothly, since there was almost no luggage. Well, seeing as how I bought Aria on impulse, she has almost nothing in this room for her. For the time being I should talk to Aria, in order to get to know her better.

“I’m Jinno. I’m an adventurer. Please take care of me.”

“Ah, okay. Thank you.”

Aria then bowed before me.

“Ah, err…I’m possessed by a [Curse], but master is an adventurer?”

Aria seemed worried about this. Well, in some cases adventurers are in a life or death situation, and it would seem impossible to team up with someone who has a [Curse] when they themselves don’t even know the effects of it. Naturally they would feel like they would be forced to search dungeons or forests by themselves.

“That would be correct. You’ll help me search (explore) Aria. Of course there is no need to worry Aria, because we will explore together safely.”

“Oh, thank you!”

That was an exaggerated bow. I see that her tail is vigorously wagging,

as her head is still lowered.

"Well then, please look after me."

While looking at her I thought of something.

"Aria come here."

When I called Aria over, she cautiously approached me. Hmmm, I wonder why she's weary of me.

"Don't worry. I'm not going to do anything harmful to you, just come here."

"O, Okay."

I place my hand on her shoulder and consciously try and activate [Divine protection of Light].

Then just for a moment the entire room was covered in a blinding light, before everything went back to normal again.

Feeling optimistic I check Arias status.

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Aria Lvl.4 Age: 15

Physical Strength 750(+250)

Muscle Strength 240(+80)

Agility 465(+155)

Intelligence 120(+40)

Luck 120(+80)

『Divine Protection of God of Battle (War) Follower』Status rise of effect combat capabilities. Target: Self

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I see that [Curse] is now gone, but it was replaced by [Divine Protection of God of Battle (War) Follower] increasing her stats. Isn't this girl like absurdly strong.

"What was that light just now?" (Aria)

Aria tried to ask me hurriedly.

"I just removed your curse."

I answered her almost as if it were nothing.

“Eh!, you could do that?”

After all those who are born with a [Curse] know that it can’t be removed, but with [Divine protection of Light] it allows me to cure any abnormal statuses/effects.

“It’s because of one of my『Divine Protection』abilities.”

In this world having a『Divine Protection』ability is extremely valuable. Even so the only person who know the full extent of the『Divine Protection』ability is the one who received it.

T/N: Lol didn’t you just look at Aria’s『Divine Protection』ability just a moment ago?

For example, even if you traveled to the guild to register, and were able to slay 10 monsters, even if you surprised everyone and collected the animal’s items, all you would have to say is you used [Divine protection of Judgement(Appraisal) God] to aide you. With just that everyone will be satisfied, and no longer ask you questions.

“I have a『Divine Protection』ability.”

“Th, That’s very impressive. You’re the first person I have ever met with a『Divine Protection』ability.”

“That’s because I don’t want everyone to know I have one, so please keep it a secret that I was able to remove your [Curse].

“Okay! But did my [Curse] really just disappear like that?”

“Thank you being understanding. And if you really don’t believe me, we’ll go the the Adventurer’s Guild tomorrow so you can see for yourself.”

[Divine Protection] as well as [Curse] are written on my card. This is probably because [Divine Protection] affects my surroundings, which could prove to be a bad thing of course.

“I, I never meant to doubt master, but….” (Aria)

“Even If I suddenly told you your [Curse] had finally disappeared just like that instantly, obviously you would have your own doubts. But I don’t mind it because tomorrow when you get your Adventurers Card you’ll see for yourself.”

“Oo, okay then.”

“Since I just bought you Aria on a whim, I’ll now have to buy you your own equipment and household necessities.”

“Ehh? What do you mean you had no intention of buying me at first now master, didn’t you by me because you needed a slave?”

After-all someone doesn’t just buy slaves on impulse.

“Ah, That’s because I thought you were pretty, so I decided to buy you.”

I spoke truthfully, I didn’t tell any lies. Even if she still remains curious about whether her [Curse] is actually gone or not, it’s gone and that is an undeniable fact.

“Ahhh. You think I’m cute”

Aria put her hand on her check, she was hot red and intensely blushing. I guess she can make cute gestures to. Unconsciously I held her close to me, and sat down on the bed with her. I wont do anything else for now… I’ll wait patiently for the time to come.

T/N: I like where this is going. You know what they say the more beautiful a lilly is the more you want to corrupt it….or is that just me… *Goes to a corner*

Aria seems to have a very modest character. I wonder if its because she had a [Curse] for such a long time. Excluding the fact her parents died, I don’t think she’s changed very much.

“I’m glad that a very gentle master bought me.”

When she said that I panicked because tears started to form in her eyes. Oh dear I’m just a plain adventurer, that bought a cheap slave, so what is this feeling I’m having right now. It looks like she was worried that she would have been used as a disposable meat shield. Holding Aria close to me, I begin to fall into our embrace.

“The necessities are clothes? I don’t know much about Tiger Beast-People, so do you have any preferences?”

I asked Aria this question while I stroked the backside of her tiger ears. I thought Tiger Beast-Man were similar to tigers in which they eat raw meat, this apparently doesn’t seem to be the case. Aria still seems to be a little nervous, every now and then she looks up and me, only to quickly push her head back into my chest out of sheer embarrassment.

“Will I be wearing a collar, master?”

She murmured that with a bright red face. Don’t talk about such hobbies. I was taken back slightly, so I’ll ask again.

“Collar?”

“Yes, because beast slaves are obligated to wear collars.”

“Well…I wonder if this is unavoidable or an obligation, besides?”

I see. I don’t know if this is a wonderful hobby, or if it’s a duty to follow it no matter what.

“I think its the same everywhere for all slaves.”

“Even if I wanted you to wear a collar, where would I get one. Do they sell them in as tailor’s shop?”

I stroked Aria's tail as she listened. As i carefully stroke her tail from its base to the tip, I can feel Aria's body shudder with excitement. I did this while thinking of the cat at my parents house that loved to be patted here.

"Yeah, I think they sell them. Or you can buy one at and equipment store."

"Is a collar sold at an equipment shop, because they treat it likes an accessory?"

"Yeah, they treat it as equipment for your head."

"Then, I'll by a collar at an equipment shop tomorrow."

"Okay, thank you."

My hands throughout this conversation did not stop stroking Aria's ears and tail. Aria's eyes moistened a bit, but she entrusted her body to me. It seems that some『Accessory Equipment』is made from collecting materials from the monsters you have captured or slain. Because of magic, [Accessories] are able to fit almost anyone's body-type without any alterations. They're usually more durable and sharper than most armors and weapons.

In addition to that you can only put one [Accessory] to each part of the body. You're can wear accessories that don't match on different parts on your body without having any consequences. Let's say if you put on a

ring, then you can’t wear anymore rings, but bracelets and earrings are fine. Whether it’s realistic or made up fantasy I’m not to sure of either. If you’re wearing a collar you wouldn’t be allowed to wear any other head accessory equipment at all, and that’s why it’s best not to wear weak accessories. Today I was able to eat dinner, take a bath, and sleep in the same bed as Aria. Aria was cute even as she laid in bed. I truly made a good investment.

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Takami no Kago Episode 5

After our night together, the next day we first went to an equipment shop to buy aria's equipment.

"Anyway, what collar would you like?"

Several collars are lined up in front of me.

"Uh, I don't know, so why don't you choose one master."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, because I want to wear the collar master chooses."

She's such a good girl. For now I'll choose a collar with good defensive abilities for Aria to wear.

"Is this one alright?"

"Yes, Thank you."

"Then here put it on me."

After receiving confirmation from Aria, I went behind her to put the collar (necklace) on her. Holding it firmly in my hands I place it around

Aria's neck. I then secured the red leather collar around her neck. It then magically configure itself to fit Aria's neck perfectly, without a doubt this is an accessory. When I checked the status of the collar, I saw that it changed to [Aria's Collar].

"With this, I'm now master's slave entirely."

I could help but be happy for Aria who said that so cheerfully, probably because she had no one to relate to, with the exception of her dead parents. And to be completely honest, I'm glad she feels relaxed around me. Even if I am the only person in this world, I can't help but feel at peace with her as my companion.

For my personal equipment I have similar I『Leather armor』『Leather shoes』『Leather gauntlet』,『Iron Sword』, 『Wooden Shield』.

I bought the whole set for 5 big silver coins. Aria's looked worried seeing this.

"Um master, will I be safe entering the guild?"

She seemed to be nervously thinking about it. They'll probably still be worried about her [Curse]

"Its okay. We'll just go to the guild next."

And so we left the equipment shop.

“Now that I think about it, have you fought any monster Aria?”

I listened waiting for her response.

“Ah yes, because monsters often came to our village, when they left the forest.”

I wonder if your level rises when you fight.

“Is it alright if I wear my equipment.”

Whatever, it will probably be alright.

Even if I look at their stats, they seem strong enough to me.

“Ah, this is a pain wearing this even if its necessary.”

While I was thinking out-loud, we arrived at the Adventurer’s Guild.

“Welcome. Is that you Jinno. Who’s the girl with you?”

The person that called out to me was a beautiful women behind the counter. Her name is Lily, she’s the one who helped me get registered her at first, and I’m greatly indebted to her.

“Hello Lily. This is Aria. She going to become a member of my party. Aria, meet Lilly. She works in this guild, so it’s best not to offend her,

alright.”

I introduced both of them as we approached Lilly’s reception desk.

“Ah, um. Please take care of me.”

Once again Aria did a polite bow after saying that.

“Okay will do.”

Lily answered while waving her hand. After that she briefly glared at me. Did I do something to offend her, I’m scared.

“For now, I would like to get Aria registered.”

I asked Lily while giving her a 1 large copper coin registration fee.

“Hai,Hai. Is Aria you slave since she’s wearing a collar. If that’s the case, then Aria write your name here, and Jinno put your name in the column for master.”

That’s what Lily said after glancing at Aria’s collar for a moment.

I don’t know what to say, since it’s quite common for adventurers to have slave in their parties. They usually have to carry extra luggage, disarm dangerous dungeon traps, and be used as a meat shield while their master runs away.

“Here you go. This is your Guild registration card.”

“Oh, thank you very much.”

Aria grabbed the guild card with her hand. She looks over her guild card timidly. The guild card uses magic, but is made out of some weird metal. It display her personal identification, monster subjugation history, as well as various other things. And on the card is doesn’t say [Curse] anywhere on it. Aria looks at me once she understood what that meant. I gave her a nod to show my own confirmation.

“Well, Aria for our first mission, is there anything you want to do?”

Although I wanted to start out with a small monster subjugation request first, but if Aria is afraid, I’ll have to take things slow with her. Even though Aria shows me a face full of determination, I know she’s still very nervous mentally.

“I would like to receive the Sharp Wolf subjugation request.”

I heard her say Sharp Wolf, as I look at Aria with astonishment she’s grinning from ear to ear. Everyone looks at us. Aria who noticed everyone staring at us, looks at me with her head to one side puzzled.

“As expected of a member of Jinno’s party.”

“Ah, I don’t know about this Aria.”

“Ara, is that a no?”

“???”

Lily who saw Aria’s puzzled face, began to speak.

“His first mission was also a subjugation of Sharp Wolves.”

“Is that so?”

For an Adventurer Sharp Wolves are a gateway for inexperienced. But why is Lily smirking.

“ I was so surprised when he came back that evening with the material from 50 sharp wolf bodies.”

T/N: [basically proof as to show you killed them]

“50 bodies?”

“That’s just because I accidentally found a pack of them.”

I quickly tried to make an excuse.

“Even if someone found a pack of 50 Sharp Wolves, not even a mid-

tier(class) adventure would fight with them."

Aria also noded in agreement. Which side are you on, mine or hers.

"It just kinda happened by chance."

It was thanks to my [Divine Protection], I was able to strengthen my stats and sword, which helped me kill 50 Sharp Wolves. Even though I finished hunting the 50 Sharp Wolves in an hour while running around, still even with an [Ability] it would be abnormal for an adventurer's first time.

" I knew it, master sure is amazing."

Aria's eyes are brimming with respect.

"Yeah, if you go with him a Sharp Wolf would be nothing in comparison. Gambatte."

T/N: Every now and again ill leave the romanji Japanese word in because that English counterpart feels like it takes away the meaning. Anyways if you have ever watched Anime you would know these words by now.

"Yes, I'll do my best."

Thus, we left to begin my first mission with Aria.

Takami no Kago Episode 6

In a forest, approximately 15 minute walk away from the city of Bureto. This is the place where the Sharp Wolves from the subjugation quest live. That being said, monster typically attack people who enter this forest. Even now I had to deal with monster.

“Ahhh!”

Aria slashes at the slime with her sword, thus cutting the slime in two.

“Good job.”

As I was congratulating Aria, she picked up [Liver of Slime], which probably was the slimes item drop.

“Right, thank you.”

“That fight went well.”

Even now as monsters try attacking us, Aria cutts them all down with a single strike.

“These monsters a definitely weaker than the ones attacking my village. It still builds character.”

Aria replied happily. Its probably because Aria was already very strong.

“I see. But don’t let your guard down even if you see a Sharp Wolf.”

“Yeah, I heard Sharp Wolves are very fast, and their offensive power isn’t one to joke with either. But I also heard slime and worm monsters are the weakest.”

Aria searches her surroundings with diligence. Aria notices that there isn’t another living creatures presence in our vicinity. It would be in our best interest to check our current traveling status.

“But, my body feels very light. Back in my village when I fought a slime, my breathing became very ragged.”

“Well, I did remove your [Curse].”

“Is that so?”

I thought so, Aria did not know the true nature of her [Curse] after all.

Aria’s curse caused all of her stats to decrease.

Now that her [Curse] has been removed, and her stats have improved thanks to her [Divine Ability]. No wonder her body feels different, since it’s no longer being restricted.

“My [Curse] was really removed.”

“You still don’t believe me?”

“No, master wouldn’t tell me lies. However, I’ve always had this [Curse] since I was born…”

It’s true she was born with the [Curse], and had to live with it for more than 10 years. And I’m the guy who told her just yesterday that her [Curse] was removed. Obviously that would sound like a suspicious story. At-least Aria’s faith in me has gradually risen.

“But I’m convinced now. Master is a wonderful person after all.”

Ara, Aria looking at me beaming with respect. I think I just won over her trust.

“For now let’s head a little deeper into the forest. Aria tell me if you see any creature movements.”

“I certainly will.”

“There’s something over there.”

Aria replied as we continued to advance, now more slowly than before.

“What is it? A monster?”

“I don’t know. But there are signs of a living creature here.”

I understood what she meant, so we proceeded with extreme caution. There was something off about this place.

“What’s that?”

Looks like there’s a liquid coming out like spring water, but it’s definitely not water. The thick liquid gathered in a pool.

“Its a [Slime Fountain]. This is the first time I’ve seen one.”

“Slime Fountain?”

Aria replies like a parrot.

“They say [Slime Fountains] appear in dark forests with excess magic power.”

The [Slime Fountain] keeps producing slime as its name states. And other monsters obtain magic powers from eating it. The cells of a monster start to rapidly change, once they’re infused with magic. In other words the [Slime Fountain produces slime, other monster eat the slime and are baited into eating from the fountain, and get magic in the process.

“That means monsters gather around [Slime Fountains].”

“So an adventure has to have confidence in themselves, because many

end up stalking this [Slime Fountains] waiting for monster to appear."

"Does that mean there are others here besides us?"

"No, there doesn't seem to be anyone around us. It's either that or this spring was made recently, so no one has found it yet."

"Indeed, so if we wait here does that mean Sharp Wolves will appear too."

"Yes, because Sharp Wolves are also monsters that eat slimes."

Speak of the devil a Sharp Wolf has appeared, just after I finished talking.

A Sharp Wolf, just like its name suggests, it has very quick and sharp moments. In comparison this Sharp Wolf is about two sizes larger than an average one, a single attack from it is comparable to that of a bears. In fact these guys often attack in packs just like regular wolves. Therefore, a Sharp Wolf is often referred to as a the『Rookie Killer』.

Grrrrrr

The Sharp Wolf's growl quickly shut me and Aria up, but we noticed it had 17 health. Usually in less than a week a rookie adventurer would've been killed. After all there are very few cases where a novice adventurer challenges a pack of [Sharp Wolves]. It's common sense to form a party, and hunt them when your party has greater numbers. However, in this case just with two people would be insane.

“Attack!”

And like that Jinno killed the nearest [Sharp Wolf], in one attack still raising his voice. Aria’s speed greatly surpassed that of the [Sharp Wolf]. Both of them possessed strength that defied common sense. By overwhelming the [Sharp Wolfs] with their superior stats, Jinno and Aria were able to make quick work of their numbers.

“Good, we defeated them all.”

I said that as I defeated the [Sharp Wolfs] leader, laying his body down.

“Yes, I was able to handle the other [Sharp Wolfs] as well. They were a little fast, but I’m alright.”

Aria answered as she collected the [Sharp Wolfs] dropped items, the [Sharp Wolfs Fang]. With this fight Jinno was convinced. Aria is considerably strong.

“I don’t think the [Sharp Wolfs] were much of a threat at all.”

“That’s because you’re insanely strong Aria.”

Without any hesitation, she is definitely strong! I ignore my own faults and evaluate Aria.

“We completed the monster subjugation request right, since it only

asked us to kill 10."

"Let's get a few more, I still want to fight."

"I understand. Let's continue hunting until sunset."

Today we continued fighting monsters looking for more [Sharp Wolfs] until we were exhausted, but still continued to mow down other monsters in our path. After getting our money from the guild, we went back to the Inn to confirm whether our statuses had risen.

****

Hibiki Jinno Lv.6

Swordsman age: 16

Endurance: 450(+150)

Strength: 90(+30)

Agility: 90(+30)

Intelligence: 203(+68)

Luck: 375(+125)

[The Divine Protection of the Battle God] Rise status of combat job (large) Impossible to overlap Target Party

[The Divine Protection of Wisdom God] Rise status of magic job (large) Impossible to overlap Target: Party

[The Divine protection of Carpenter God] Rise status of production workers (large) Impossible to overlap Target: Party

[The Divine protection of Healing God] Rise status of sacred job (large) Impossible to overlap Target: Party

[Divine protection of Judgement(Appraisal) God] Able to check the status of anything. Target: Myself

[Divine protection of Trade(Merchant) God] Effect: Makes trading advantageous. Target: Myself

[Divine protection of Light] Effect: Cures all abnormal status effects. Target: Who I designate

****

Aria Lvl.5

Warrior Age:15

Endurance: 840(+280)

Strength: 252(+84)

Agility: 483(+161)

Intelligence: 132(+44)

Luck: 132(+44)

『Divine Protection of God of Battle (War) Follower』Rise status of combat capabilities [Large]. Target: Self

****

Takami no Kago Episode 7

On the same day as Aria's first mission, we returned to the Adventurer's Guild once we left the forest, we then received more money than I thought we would receive. Up until now we secluded ourselves in the forest from dawn till sunset slaying about 100 monsters or so. After we sold our the best monster loot, and collected our reward money of 2-3 large silver coins (roughly 20-300,00 yen). I calculated that today's earning was 5 large silver coins, approximately double what the minimum payment usually is. Well, that's obvious because there were two of us hunting instead of 1 person by themselves. Also, because we hunted a lot of monsters over a large span of time helped us.

"Aria's fast movements helped us greatly."

Aria looked like she was about to cry from what I just said.

"I, I'm sorry. I hope I didn't say anything to make you cry."

I tried to quickly apologize, thinking I made Aria cry.

"This is the first time anyone has said I was useful."

Even Though she was crying, Aria still looked beautiful. For several days we decided to make good use of our [Slime Fountain] hunting grounds, as we continued to hunt monster around or near it. Our concern about the cost of our living expenses quickly disappeared once we completed more monster subjugations, even now I'm very happy living with Aria. Our happy days continued for 10 day, in which we gained several levels, then we received word from the Adventurer's Guild requesting two

people.

"Escort a merchant?"

The Adventurer's Guild receptionist Lily told us about a mission that had to be absolutely completed, so we listened to Lily who told us the details.

"It's about three days from here by horse-drawn carriage, you'll travel to Wereo village and return to Bureto. I would like you both to be the bodyguards for that time."

"But, why us?"

It hasn't even been 1 month since Aria and I registered as adventurers, so why would they request a novice party like us. I feel like there is something more to this that she isn't telling us.

"Actually this was requested to us by the merchants, they said that a party with a couple of adventurers with a [Divine Gift] would be best."

"Why would they make such a demand?"

I see that there's demand for people with a [Divine Gift]. Aren't there other adventurers in this city, with decent [Divine Abilities]. They could pick anyone with one. Yet, why are they specifying that they want a small party for this quest. There's something suspicious about this.

“For that reason a few people in this town decided that you two would be best.”

“Do what exactly?”

“Protect the merchant as he buys that village’s specialty, [Jade Textile] and few other things.”

“[Jade Textile]!?”

Aria looks like she got excited by that.

“What’s so good about it?”

These two can’t seem to comprehend what I just said, so they both let out a sigh.

“[Jade Textile] is silk made from silk worms that have eaten magically infused pellets, so the fabric has magical properties.”

“Oh really. You seem well informed.”

“[Jade Textile] is a very popular commodity among women. Clothes made from [Jade Silk] are said to be worth several gold coins.”

You wearing 1 million yens worth of fabric, amazing.”

“I take it that only Were village produces it?”

Although I think they should increase their supplies since there’s such a high demand but…

“Their manufacturing methods are a secret, They say that you can’t make Jade Silk anywhere else.”

First of all, don’t you have to feed the silkworms these gems first? Or is it extremely hard to make them? They’re monopolizing this, I guess this country doesn’t have laws against this yet.

“Because of this you can’t bring a lot of people to this place. This request came to us because the usual adventurers this merchant always hires are all dead.”

I see, now that’s why he requested for a small party to protect him, since the request came at short noticed. I guess that’s reasonable. Meanwhile Aria is humbly looking at me, quietly hoping that I accept this request. I guess she really want to see the [Jade Textile] since it’s written all over her face.

“Lily, is it possible to meet the client first?”

“Yes, of course. I see you want to ask them a few questions before officially accepting this.”

“I want to meet the client first, and If I don’t like that the mission entails, then I won’t accept it.”

That way I can refuse this quest if the merchant doesn't like us. The quest's reward isn't too bad either, the advance payment is 2 big silver coins, and upon completion you get 8 large silver coins. Also there are additional rewards, considering the amount of times we might get attacked by monsters, the money we would get from selling their loot would also give us more money as well. Because of the additional rewards, we will earn money to the utmost.

"I understand. I would like to only have the interview for now."

"Aha. I make that request. It would be nice if Hibiki does it."

Lily looked relieved as she sighed.

"Were you that concerned about it?"

I was curious so I asked Lily."

"Yeah I already asked several other parties, but they all declined the request."

I see, that why you didn't ask us first, since even if we have [Divine Gifts] we're still inexperienced adventurers.

"Well, I still might end up not accepting the request. By the way how many pairs did you ask before us?"

" 4 pairs, you guys will be the 5th group I've asked so far. Eventually we'll have a list of everyone who at least has a [Divine Gift]. I hope you do well. Please go to this residency this afternoon, since you wanted to interview the client."

I wonder why the client who only hires senior-adventurers, would suddenly put out a notice accepting novice adventurers for this task. Even though I was a little nervous Aria and I made our way to the client's office.

Takami no Kago Episode 8

The merchants office was located near the West Gate of the city, just off the main street.

『Kuresuto Company』

“Is this it ?”

The town of Bureto is in the center of the Angle continent, but the capital city of the Angle kingdom is on the west side of the continent.

The East side of the Angle kingdom is treated as a frontier, so it clearly has more monsters inhabiting this side as well has far more monster’s surprise attacks. The west side of Bureto is mostly where all of the noble live in.

I don’t see anything wrong with the high-class [Jade Fabric] goods.

“Master, the guard in the merchant’s office is glaring at us.”

Aria looks like she was half-crying when she said that. I have never set foot in the West District where nobles live in. Probably because of anxiety Aria grabbed my sleeve and didn’t let go of it.

“It’s all right. we are probably stronger than that guy over there anyways.”

I confirmed the guards stat's, and their levels are 2 and 3.

If they had such strong guards in the first place, why would they request the Adventurer's Guild for help. Do I have to make a request to the guards in order to speak with the merchant.

"Um, we're the people sent from the Adventurer's Guild. Is Mr. Kuresuto home?"

The clients name was Kuresuto from the Kuresuto Company. In other words he would be the owner of this place, and the guards employer.

"Why do you need to speak with Mr. Kuresuto?"

Guard A seems to be looking down on me with a very condescending attitude. Guard B is only glaring at me with his eyes, what's up with these hostile guys.

"I am here about the request Mr. Kuresuto made to the Adventurer's Guild. I asked you if I could see him because I wanted to confirm this matter."

From a civilian's standpoint, this merchant is very wealthy and does business with prominent aristocrats. I should listen to what he has to say before I open my mouth. I shouldn't really worry about this, except I need to be polite when I have to get my point across. In a very Japanese-like manner Hibiki politely spoke to the guards.

"I didn't hear anything about a visitor coming. Go home."

Guard A is trying to force me to comply using his intimidation. I'll go home if they continue to be this persistent. I decided that would be the best course of action.

"Anyway, since I just rushed over here, you might have not been informed that I was coming. I'm sorry, but could you please check again?"

I can only hope that they pass this on to Mr. Kuresuto if they refuse to check, because I'm going home if they refuse. In a moment guard A declared without any hesitation.

"I won't do it now. Come back later."

"I see well then, please forgive my impoliteness for today."

Since he said so, I turned around and was about to head home.

"Wait a minute. Are you the adventurers sent by the Adventurer's Guild?"

There was a stout man around the age of 40, with nicely tailored clothes on, standing at the entrance of the building.」

"I'm sorry about what happened to you earlier. Even though you're an adventurer you're as polite as a noble. On the contrary, as for our guards."

This man was glaring at guard A while he said that. When guard A

noticed the glare his face went pale.

"I, I'm very sorry sir!"

"I've had enough already. You will receive your punishment later. I was almost about to lose this relationship with this adventurer directly because of your actions."

"Th, This can't be!?"

"Shut up. Be silent and go stand over there until I say otherwise!"

After that guy said that, he urgently welcomed Hibiki into his mansion.

The inside of this house seemed to be overflowing with expensive furniture and priceless goods. However, that way it was all arranged inside made it not look distasteful. The inside of this house almost give off a feeling of nobility in it. Just like that Aria and I were guided down the hallway into the meeting room, and were quickly prompted to sit down on a sofa to begin the interview.

"This is the Kuresuto Company's chamber of commerce. First of all, I have to apologize about the way you were treated earlier."

"Er, don't worry about it. He was just doing his job properly."

"I'm happy when you say it like that."

“I would like to talk about the matter you were making a request about more than that.”

I said that, and Kuresuto[Crest] nodded.

“The request states that we have to guard your wagon carrying your goods. Which will take approximately 3 days for us to reach Wereo village. We’ll stay in Wereo village for 2 days, while you purchase the good, and escort you back to Bureto.

It’s about 6 days long round trip. Making it 8 days if we included the 2 days we stay there. It’s our first time traveling, but I think we’ll be alright.

“I understand what the request is saying. Although there are things I would like to confirm with you, the most important being. We are looking forward into making Bureto our base of operations. Even if we go with you to Wereo village, we don’t know anything about it, or even where it’s even located.”

Mr. Kuresuto [Crest] made a gesture as if he was thinking, then slightly nodded. I don’t think he’ll have any problems.

“I have someone from Wereo village right here in my chamber of commerce. We could ask her to guide us while we are traveling so there wouldn’t be any problems.”

“I understand. But so far you have judged 4 pairs of adventurers so far and they have all failed, but how would you say we did?”

I only said that because I hate being rejected. And I would rather confirm it ahead of time as opposed to waiting.

"Of course. If an adventurer has a [Divine Gift] and acts just like nobles, then there's no problem."

Hmm, looks like the four set of adventurer's that came before me were all disqualified for arguing with the guard outside. I think the test was to see if you could act like a nobleman instead of acting like a barbarian, while talking to the guard. It is also most likely that the guards outside were deliberately instructed to act like that to any adventurers coming for this request. Looks like they really don't want anyone to be causing problems for them in Wereo Village. Even though Mr. Kuresuto [Crest] seems like a good person, he is still a very wealthy merchant, who also deals with a lot of prominent noble figures, so he obviously doesn't want anyone causing trouble for him.

Throughout this discussion Aria hasn't said one word, except for when she made a difficult face.

"Are you okay Aria?"

When I talked to her, she made a relieved face and affectionately clung to me.

"What a relief. You're still the same as ever master."

"Yeah?"

She seems to have been confused because of the way I was talking drastically changed especially when I was speaking to the guards. It seems my humble way of talking looked rather ridiculous to Aria. I thought about what happened and decided to explain to Aria that depending on the person I was talking to, I had to adapt my speech to fit them and the conversation. Looks like she still doesn't understand, looks like we should go to bed soon.

"At times it is necessary to humble oneself!"

The next morning I could see Aria talking to Lily about what I explained to her last night. I told you, it was a secret last night.

Takami no Kago Episode 9

TL note: The dialogue and some of the translations in here are a bit rough, so please forgive me for that. I did the best with what the MT gave me. Other than that Enjoy!

The next day, I went to the Adventurer's Guild receptionist desk to confirm that I will accept the previous request, but found a strange guy. He kept walking back and forth between the request board and the receptionist desk, he also wore a slightly dirty robe that hid his face.

"Who is that person?"

After staring at this person for a while, I decided to look at their status.

****

Emily [emī] Lvl. 3 Alchemist Age: 14

Endurance: 200

Strength: 35

Agility: 45

Intelligence: 90

Luck: 75

『Curse of Production Obstruction(or)Inhibition』

Effect: A curse is applied to the things produced from this individual.

Target: Herself (Manufacturing)

****

Ara, it's a『Curse』.

However the job category of an Alchemist is rarely seen in the Adventurers Guild. An Alchemist is a type of job that allows them to create anything. Alchemist can make necessary [Potions] which every adventurer needs whether its to cure an abnormal state or a buff, and it's possible for them to create accessories with special effects. Alchemists can't make weapons or armors because that is the job of a『Blacksmith master』or just old plain『Blacksmith』. Alchemists are able to give weapons and armors special effects after they have been made. Needless to say, the effects you get are only slightly better than the ones you already get if they were made by a『Blacksmith master』.

"However, having a [Curse] that affects production quality seems to be fatal."

Initially an Alchemist is not a combat related job, but since that curse affects their livelihood it would help explain why they're currently at the Adventurers Guild. But then again those with a [Curse] are rarely seen at an Adventurer's Guild.

“Excuse me, are you an adventurer?”

“Indeed I am. Are you different?”

Emily seemed to be surprised by my response. I don’t know why she thought I wasn’t an adventurer.

“If you end up exhibiting such strange behavior in the Adventurer’s Guild, one would think you’re a suspicious person.”

“But, might you perhaps be an adventurer from another town.”

“I don’t look like an Adventurer since I came from another city. With that being said I probably look like a rookie adventurer.”

Usually adventurers start “adventuring” in the place they were born in. They do this on purpose because they usually don’t get any benefits starting out in another town anyways. Also if they do their adventuring near the town they were born in most of the monsters have already been seen or heard of at least. Then in order to test their skills when they become full fledged adventurers they go to other towns and try their luck. In other words the person in front of me can’t be an adventurer from somewhere else. I decided to talk to Emily, while thinking that it has only been about 1 month since I became an adventurer.

“Oh is that so. Well I’m not technically an adventurer yet since I haven’t finished my registration yet.”

“Really? If that’s the case then you can go register yourself at the receptionist desk, because you won’t be able to choose a request until you join.”

I feel like an annoying person trying to tell her what to do.

“Thank you very much. Where is the registration desk ?”

“Over there by the receptionist desk.”

I pointed over to the counter where Lily was at.

“You’ll need to pay 10 Gale [Yen] for the registration fee, so be prepared to do so.”

“But I don’t have any money!”

Wait a minute, what kind of country-bumpkin sheltered female are you. Wait, isn’t it rude for me a person from a different world to think like this ?

“You only have to pay for the registration fee. There is no end to the people who end up registering half-heartedly, even the guild card isn’t free.”

I think that it’s a fair price to only pay 10 yen for both registering and getting a guild card. But if you want to get your card reissued it will cost 100 yen(Gale).

“It can’t be. Even with all the money I have on me I only have 10 yen(Gale).”

Don’t junior high school students carry roughly 1,000 yen on hand.

“Well, you could give up on a request if you find it impossible to complete.”

“I, I absolutely need the money!”

“How much?”

“…15 Gold coins.”

“Well, that’s impossible. As far as I know the only way you could get 15 gold coins fast will have to be if you were able to complete a dragon subjugation, since that is the only request with 15 gold coins as the reward.”

“I heard that Adventurers could earn money. Its okay if I don’t earn all of the money at once!”

This girl, dreams of being an adventurer.

“Even if you compare the earnings of first-rate adventurers to average ones, they certainly make more. But, that isn’t the only reason they earn that much money.”

Even though I have just started adventuring, my body still aches from it. The most I can make a day even with my “cheat” abilities is about 1 gold.

“B,but, I know I will.”

“Well, in the case of killing monsters, its feasible if you claim the reward and sell off any loot you gain from killing them.”

But I think 15 gold is too much.

“I understand. Thank you very much.”

Emily turns and walks toward the receptionist desk looking uneasy. Is she alright ?

“This might sound unreasonable. I won’t be back here for about 10 days due to work, when I do come back I would like to make arrangements with you.”

I faced her, and waved my hand towards Emily where she lowered her head, and I left the Adventurer’s guild. I’ll be leaving for Wereo village tomorrow. It is necessary to begin making preparations. I already made previous arrangements with Aria, in order to hasten our travelling.

Takami no Kago Episode 10

In the morning of the next day, Mr. Kuresuto and a woman who already finished the traveling preparations were waiting for me in an open space close to the east gate of the meeting place.

“Good morning. I’m sorry to have kept you all waiting.”

Since we decided that we would leave in the morning, we just didn’t set an exact time. In the first place owning a watch is very expensive, so only rich nobles and merchants can afford one. Mr. Kuresuto looked over at me and smiled before he was about to say something.

“Don’t worry about it, we only arrived a short while ago. It”s not a problem. Thank you in advance from today onwards.”

“Likewise, Thank you as well.”

“So, she’ll be the guide from this point on. ”

“Hello my name is Poroia [ポーロイアです].”

“Hi, I’m an adventurer. My best regards. And this is Aria another member of my party.”

“My best regards.”

-TL: I think this is Aria who said this, since there was no subject

specifically mentioned, and she was mentioned in the previous line.

Aria quickly finished her greeting in a few words. It seems that her communication with others is still a bit weak. It seems that she seems comfortable with talking to me and Lily. After all she would seems a little tense when meeting someone else for the first time.

“So will we be leaving now? Yeah, I already have the carriage waiting for us outside of the East Gate.”

°

Looking at the carriage by the East Gate, it seems that there is no one in the driver’s seat. It seems that Mr. Kuresuto himself will be driving us.

“Doing business in Wereo Village has to be done directly and I can’t bring that many people with me.”

-TL: This dialogue confused the hell out of me?

[Jade Fabric] tends to generate tons of wealth. That’s why he is trying to limit the information surrounding it. We’ll probably be have to be very careful even after the request is finished. I still think that it’s very mysterious how all of the previous people to do this ended up dying.

“Why did you make a request such as this so last minute. Why did you want to employ us adventurers who have very little experience act as you gaurds.”

I try questioning Mr. Kuresuto a little bit.

“Hmm. Because unlike the people before you I can trust you.”

“Why would you say something like that?”

“Merchant’s intuition. If I had to say something, its because I don’t feel your desire in having the [Jade Fabric] from you as much as the others. Normally such a narrow minded person is only thinking about making short-term profits. But I have already confirmed your intelligence just from talking to you.”

“I will try to fulfill your expectations of me.”

Its not that I particularly want to have the [Jade Fabric]. I thought about what he said about me as the type of person who doesn’t really care about the value of it. I think its probably due to my nature. After a while we were finally out of the city, and currently heading towards the forest Aria and I always go to. As we slowly approached the familiar forest Aria opened her mouth as if she wanted to say something.

“Master, it appears that someone is being attacked by monsters ahead.”

“What?”

It makes sense that there would be monsters in this forest. I don’t know if the person being attacked is a merchant or a traveler. I should probably inform Mr. Kuresoto about this and see what he was to say.

“It looks like it can’t be helped. Im sorry about this but I’m going to fight that monster.”

“Are you sure?”

I usually wouldn’t put myself in harms way just to help someone else being attacked. Considering I was requested by the Adventurer’s Guild to be this merchants bodyguard it can’t be helped.

“I think this would be a perfect opportunity to see the extent of your abilities. Of Course I will give you an additional reward if you battle it.”

“Fine. Aria do you know the number of opponents we’ll be facing?”

“There are most likely 5 of them.”

“Alright then, if thats the case you should guard the carriage then. I’ll come back when I’m finished with them.”

“Certainly.”

I walked forward alone leaving guarding the carriage to Aria. The horse drawn-carriage greatly reduced its speed. Leaving the number of people guarding the carriage dropped to zero would seem unacceptable. Aria should be able to tell if the course of the battle changes to my disadvantage, and only then would she step in to help. I discovered the group of monsters around what I presume is an abandoned carriage.

****

Goblin Lv.4

Standard variation

Endurance:

120

Strength:

45

Agility:

55

Intelligence:

25

Luck:

20

****

Its a [Goblin]. It seems that the things that attacked that person were these fellows. There was equipment scattered everywhere in tatters. It looks like he is a situation where he couldn't escape even if he wanted to being surrounded by 5 goblins. Is that a woman I see. Their skin color was green and stood about 120cm in height. They have a tattered cloth around their waists. It looks like that's the standard for them. In this fantasy world I would compare them to slimes. Goblins are by no means strong monsters. If someone fought them alone they would probably win, even if they weren't adventurers. However Goblins are not monster to be reckoned with. That's because they're almost never alone, they fight with

elementary strategies such as decoy and pincer attack while fighting as a group. In addition they tend to prefer human females over their very own females of the same race. Their gestation is extremely quick, as well as their fast growth. It takes them roughly 2 weeks to reach adulthood. Meanwhile, I proceeded to cut down one goblin from its backside, since it's a monster disliked most by the female adventurers.

"Danger!!"

There were three left after my surprise attack. Of course I don't stay in one place after being detected. The second goblin charges at me from its previous position. I cut off one his arms as he charged at me, and then avoided the rest of his attack by quickly maneuvering my body in time to doge. Now there are only two left. Now the fight is two against two, although it would be cruel if they attacked the female near me. Immediately the Goblins who were taken back by my surprise attack quickly try to recover themselves.

"Aria now!"

-TL: Where did she come from? I thought she was guarding the carriage, unless I miss translated that part?

Creek

I quickly look behind the goblins. The two quickly look behind themselves. I can't overlook such an opportunity. I quickly seized my sword with both hands, as I quickly stepped forward, and sweaped my sword from one side to the other, ending up decapitating both of their heads at once. One can force their way through a fight relying on stats alone, but I used my experience from fighting monsters in the forest. Using a feit as an attack is very effective for monsters that have the same level of intelligence of Goblins. I could have fought a little better if Aria

was here and we worked together instead.

"Are you okay?"

"Y, Yes. Thank you for saving me from them. Wait, Its you!?"

"Um? Do I know you from somewhere, oh you're that female in the Adventurer's Guild from yesterday."

Whoops, I remember that it's the mysterious alchemist I checked that stats of. But this is an unnecessary thing to say so i'll withhold that piece of information.

"Ah, yes. I remember you now."

"Its probably because you're a cute girl. But didn't I remind you to be careful last time?"

Emily tried to explain while her face became extremely red.

"You, you think I'm cute!? Oh, I am sorry. I absolutely needed the money..."

"For the time being do you want to head back to your wagon."

Just as I was talking to her the wagon I'm being paid to guard pulls up.

"Are you alright master?"

“Yeah, there were five goblins. Aria you were right.”

Aira’s ability to accurately detect and predict roughly the number of enemies is amazing. Oh but, there are a few marginal errors in the identifying the exact number, though she wasn’t able to detect if it was a human, demon, or another beastman. It still is very beneficial when you’re searching in the woods.

“I dealt with the 5 goblins easily. I used my experience and abilities.”

Kuresuto looked very impressed as I spoke.

“I was only able to make a surprise attack, since she was being attacked by them.”

I tried telling them about what happened in as much detail as possible.

“She?”

Poroia seems to be worried about Emily since she was attacked and is a female as well.

“Ah, err… I’m fine. Thank you for having you help me.”

Emily bowed her head slightly as she spoke.

“This far is good enough. I will be alright…”

She began to head back into town after she finished talking. Surely Emily will be able to make it back into town after only an hour of walking since she didn’t get any major injuries from the attack. It will talk her 15 minutes to get out of this dangerous forest. After all this is supposed to be a highway even in the forest or out of it monster rarely appear let alone attack people. I was able to confirm the short sword Emily was using crumbled into pieces. It looks like Emily was not accustomed to fighting with a sword. Since walking alone without a sword is rather dangerous, I gave her one of my spare swords instead. She still wouldn’t readily accept it without some persuasion.

“I don’t need it you should keep it.”

“Then this is a loan, Swords are very expendable so you don’t need to necessarily return it. You can give me something else in return. I’m an adventurer. I usually head to the Guild just about everyday. Contact me when you’re ready to repay your debt to me.”

In the long-run gain favor with an alchemist goes a long way.

“Yes, sir. I’ll return it without failure.”

Emily says that as she heads back into town.

“Then, shall we continue our departure?

The carriage began to move due to Mr. Kuresuto’s command.

Nejis Note :

terms need to be edited :

bureto = brett [i leave them to be Bureto, as it more readable, Brett is also a person name]

angel continent = angel kingdom [i change all previous chapters]

Aria = Ayla [i did not change, but rename all to Aria]

Chapter 29 = Magic Energy, MP —> Maryoku

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by xias :

Also regarding the main character knowing about Aria newly acquired Divine Protection ability that is most likely possible because he has [Divine protection of Judgement(Appraisal) God].

Another reason could be that Aria got the Divine Protection for being in his party –> [Divine Protection of God of Battle (War) Follower].

The main character got the original ability [The Divine Protection of the Battle God] –> Rise status of combat job (large), Impossible to overlap, Target: Party – so all his party members with a combat job should receive the follower protection.

The same goes with [The Divine Protection of Wisdom God] for any party member with a magic related job.

So if he gets a mage on his team that mage should receive [The Divine Protection of Wisdom God – Follower].

Party members with jobs in production, *e.g.* smiths or craftsmen should receive the follower version of [The Divine protection of carpenter God] while party members with sacred professions such as priests would receive the follower version of [The Divine protection of Healing God].

Since all follower versions originate from the main character´s Divine Protections it´d be reasonable if he could see them even without [Divine protection of Judgement(Appraisal) God].

Btw. the part "impossible to overlap" probably means that each party member can only receive one follower version of the divine protection.

So in case their jobs can be accosiated with 2 different attributes they´d only receive the bonus for the main attribute they focus on.

A job with 2 attributes could for example be something like "Battle Monk" – if it exists in that world.

As "monks" they´d be considered to have a "sacred job" but because of their fixation on "battle" they can also be counted as "combat job".

Takami no Kago – Chapter 12

“Master, there is something up ahead.”

After we advanced through the forest for a while, Ayla reported so.

“Something? Is it a human? Or a monster?”

“I do not know. It only has a faint presence. It gives a feel like a human, yet it also gives feels like a monster, too.”

The heck is that.

“Got it. I’ll go check it. Crest-san, I’m sorry but could you please stop the horse-drawn carriage?”

“I understand. Please take care.”

“Yes.”

Saying so, I walk following the road in the forest. The width of the road is around 2 meters, so the horse-drawn carriage barely fit through it.

It’s practically just animal trail which only have several small spaces to avoid horse-drawn carriage from the other direction.

And in the middle of the said road, there was a man, collapsed. I can’t say for sure from afar, but it seems he’s still alive.

When I rushed over to him, he let out a groan. Yup, he’s still alive.

"You alright?"

The man looked up, and when I tried to check whether there were any wounds on him, he stabbed my flank with a dagger he hid in his hand.

The dagger pierces through my leather armor, stabbing me.

Even after I try to push him away, the dagger still deeply stabbed in my flank.

"Th-The fuck are you doing?!"

The man who I pushed cackled as he stood up.

His body gradually expanding, tearing through his skin, and frighteningly exposing his skin that lustered with mucus.

"Guggyagya!"

Looking at my wound, he sure was laughing. That was all a trap.

After he completely transformed, he looked like a monster with pig-like head. He was an orc.

"Mutant orc, huh."

Deciding to use status-reading-ability of [Divine Protection of God of Appraisal], I look at him.

Mimic Orc Lv.12

Mutant

5 years old

HP 820

Atk 180

Agi 150

Int 75

Luk 65

▼

That’s the first time I see a symbol ▼.

When I’m focusing my mind there, the status was renewed.

Mimic Orc Lv.12

Mutant

5 years old

HP 820

Atk 180

Agi 150

Int 75

Luk 65

Skill

【Mimicry】★★

Makes it possible for you to mimic living thing you'd ate.

If what you try to mimic is stronger than you are, the ability would be limited.

What's a skill!

I never saw it before!

You could mimic something you'd ate?

No wonder the eye-witnesses' testimonies are all different!

It seems he believes that he already wins.

He approaches me slowly.

With a club in hand, with the long of my height he got from somewhere.

When I already in his attack range.

He raised the club.

"Don't underestimate me!!!"

I bent down while holding my stomach, sweeping sideway in a flash, face towards him and hit him.

I manage to cut the oh-so-unprepared orc's abdomen's region. Even so,

"Tsk, to shallow, huh."

Nevertheless, I managed to buy myself some times. I insert my hand into the bag on my waist and take out a potion.

I pull the dagger from my stomach and drink the potion in one go.

I feel a burning pain on my stomach, however it gradually calms down.

Though I don't know to what extent the potion will cure your wounds,

as expected I couldn't fight with the dagger still stuck on me.

While facing the blade towards the orc, I confirm that my bleeding has stop to some extent.

The orc is coming, not letting pass the slight opening when I distorted in pain as I touched my wound.

Quite fast.

I somehow withstand it by diverting it diagonally with my shield. However I don't think I could withstand it for too long.

Though I can counterattack with the other hand, the orc's skin is not only hard, cursed to some-kind-of-mucuses, it's also slippery.

I can feel my attack's slipping.

The wooden shield that receives his blow is letting unpleasant creaking sound.

"Damn! What should I do!"

With my current level 10, my status is slightly inferior than his.

My hands' already full avoiding his fatal strike that could penetrate my defenses.

For me who haven't experiencing any battle other than relying-on-status battle, this might be my first [battle].

And then, I'll lose if this goes on. I needed something to win over him.

Surprise attack won't work on him anymore. He's already all-prepared thanks to my attack on his stomach before.

"Is there nothing…"

All being said, what I got in my bag aren't much.

Sake that could ignite, rope, dagger, flint, and some potions.

In my head, I tried to recall the contents of the bag on my waist.

"Hm? [Sake that could ignite]?"

I feel like I saw a chance. I really was something for purchasing sake even though I didn't drink.

This might also be the effect of having high [Luk] from level 1.

That said, if one's really lucky he'd not get stabbed, huh. It seems mine's [Bad Luk] instead of [Luk].

"Then, should I go for the gaudy one?"

While receiving the orc's attack with the wooden shield, I look for an opening.

Seeing me stopped to bother doing counterattack, the orc starting to attack me to his heart content.

Somehow dodging the large swing from overhead, I glance sideway to the orc that slightly lost his balance, and head towards the forest in full speed.

Following the animal trail, I enter the forest and hide from the orc's sight.

Though the orc immediately give a chase, many trees hinder him. Opening the bottle of the sake, I dip the rope I've cut short with dagger into the sake, moistening it.

Then I take out the rope from the mouth of the bottle, and use flint to ignite it.

Though the rope I've dipped in the sake burned unexpectedly more well than I thought, I pay no heed and come back to the animal trail.

Hibiki who created the so-called [Molotov], who no one but God knows when it'd explode, aim and throw it straight to the orc's face that came out of the forest, chasing after him.

Colliding with the orc's hard skin, the container break into pieces, raised flames in front of the orc's face in an instant and obstruct his field of vision.

The flame ignited from the sake that covered the orc's face burn his throat. The orc who couldn't breath, fall in his knees while keep glaring at Hibiki.

Hibiki throws his shield, grasps the sword with both of his hand and aims at the orc's neck, swings his sword with all his might as a finisher.

Maybe because of the orc's thick fat, the sword stops halfway.

Though the orc raised a loud cries and swinging his arms, his stance is bad that it doesn't reach Hibiki.

The club's fall from his hand due to the blow Hibiki deal before.

Putting more of his strength into the sword that cuts the orc's neck halfway, Hibiki swings the sword. Even though the neck didn't fell off, the sword came out of the orc's right side.

"Gugyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Raising a scream louder than ever, the orc collapses.

Even after collapsing, it seems the orc's still breathing.

Approaching it carefully, this time Hibiki cut the orc's neck off the body.

"Haa, haa. Did that got him?"

When he checked the corpse's status, it displays [Mimic Orc's Head] and [Mimic Orc's Body], both was treated as items.

Finally took a breathe, Hibiki sit there.

After some time passed and he calmed down, he checked his own status.

Hibiki Jinno Lv. 13

Swordsman

16 years old

HP 750 (+250)

Atk 140 (+49)

Agi 147 (+49)

Int 273 (+91)

Luk 585 (+195)

[Divine Protection of God of War]

Effect : Raise combat-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stacked | Target : Party

[Divine Protection of God of Wisdom]

Effect : Raise magic-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stacked | Target : Party

[Divine Protection of God of Craftsman]

Effect : Raise production-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stacked | Target : Party

[Divine Protection of God of Healing]

Effect : Raise holiness-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stacked | Target : Party

[Divine Protection of God of Appraisal]

Effect : Makes it possible to appraise everything

Target : Self

[Divine Protection of God of Trading]

Effect : Makes trading become advantageous

Target : Self

[Divine Protection of Light]

Effect : Removes all abnormal status

Target : Any

▼

I notice the same symbol like the Mimic Orc's.

However, I was too tired at the moment that I didn't feel like confirming it.

Let's just confirm it later when we return to the town.

However, my level went up by 3.

That means Mimic Orc was that strong of an enemy.

Having put my breath in order, I stand up and approach the orc's corpse.

"Now to collect the drop item and return to the horse-drawn carriage."

Mimic Orc's drop item was [Mimic Orc's Blood].

Returning to the horse-drawn carriage, the other two beside Ayla doubted me when I tried to explain the circumstance.

In the first place, the one who said there was something up ahead is one of my own, so it's a given if they doubt me.

As for Ayla, as expected she was angry with the two but she doesn't do anything but glaring at them.

Since there was no choice left, I showed the [Mimic Orc's Blood] to both of them.

Even though they looks like they don't know what that is, it's certain that they haven't seen this kind of drop item before.

Even Mr. Crest and co. would believe it after they confirm the real things.

“Who’d have thought there was individual that have mimicry ability. I’m amaze you could make it alright.”

“I can’t say I’m alright. I was quite beaten up.”

I also used the quite-precious potions.

If it was not for urgency calling, I’d use medicinal herb. While the recovery amount of the medicinal herb is small compared to potion, I can get it for free since I can harvest it in the forest.

I’d not use potion if it was not a live-death situation.

Beside as though she noticed, Ayla constantly minding me.

“Master, are you really alright?”

“Yeah, no probs. Sorry for making you worry.”

“Nonsense, it is great as long as I know Master is safe.”

After I defeated the Mimic Orc, the trip’s like the time when we departed, not so smooth nor so grave, and that continued for 3 days.

We who arrived at Bureto town as scheduled, headed to Mr. Crest’s mansion first.

It’s the bonus-on-completion time.

By the way, the number of attacks we’ve repelled these past 7 days is 28. It’s approximately 4 monsters a day.

Eventually, all my fortunes combined with the recompense of the

deferred payment numbered 29,000 Gal, around 3 millions yen.

And if I were to sum the drop item's selling value I pick from the attacks, too; voila, I'd got 39,650 Gal or around 4 millions yen.

Even I haven't include the Mimic Orc's drop item, [Mimic Orc's Blood] there.

Since I got the feeling that it's quite rare, I refrained from selling it to the guild.

There's the sake's matter too, so I don't know what'll prove useful in the future.

That being said, I wonder about receiving the special reward that's worth manyfold the escort's reward.

Though I want to ask Lily later about it, the escort's reward is really cheap to begin with, it seems the normal reward is as much as when I include the special reward.

Well, if the hired adventurer's incompetent, that means less money is paid, huh.

Then again, I haven't forgotten about the special reward.

I who have splendidly kill the Mimic Orc of course get the privilege to receive the [Jade Silk] clothing.

Though I was enthusiastic on seeing Mr. Crest asserted to give me the special reward, seeing him giving it so readily was anticlimactic.

"Since I want to be in Hibiki-san's favor from now on, I want to pass this as a prior investment."

[Jade Silk Robe (None)]

HP +80

【Effect】

If an element was assigned,

damaged from the element assigned would be reduced greatly.

I see, it's an equipment aimed at magician, huh.

When I confirmed the status of the Mimic Orc's corpse I realized,

that my status-check can be used on things too.

Well, [makes it possible to appraise everything] was written, so it's no wonder.

Since I used it to check the Mimic Orc's corpse.

So far, I had no equipment that has effect like this.

Even if I check [Iron Sword]'s status,

[Iron Sword]

Atk +15

---

was the only thing showed up.

Well, I'll accept gladly whatever is given to me.

Since I can just sell it if I don't need it.

"You have my gratitude, for being so generous to me."

It was already late at night of the day we arrived, when we finished all the processing task.

Even though we were only unloading the drop items from the horse-drawn carriage, we took our time.

Well, it was quite of amounts. And it occupied a little space in the horse-drawn carriage, too.

Although Mr. Crest didn't say anything about it, he must be quite bothered by it.

Whatever. What's done is done. Forget that, let's call it a day.

Tomorrow I'll go to the guild and look if there's any good mission.

"My, welcome. Even though you'd just came back yesterday, are you going to work again?"

Lily wore a surprised expression on her face.

Adventurer sure is a wilful job. Since it's morning when I woke up, then it's night when I felt sleepy.

You can have a day off as you want, there's no working on a day off, either.

Almost all adventurers live a disorder life.

However, that being said doesn't mean we can slack our ass off. Even so, I'm fundamentally a lazy fellow.

If it's a day off, I'd continue to chill the day off. However, after coming to this world I giving my darndest not to be a shut-in.

While I say all that oh-so-remarkable lines, the sun's already high in the sky.

“Yeah, is there any good missions?”

“Let’s see, since frequency of the monsters’ appearance is calming down at the moment, there aren’t many subjugation-type missions.”

“I see.”

Heard of monster subjugation, suddenly there was something that bothered me.

About the alchemist girl we met in the forest right after we departed and exited the town.

“By the way, what of the Rookie Amy?”

“Huh?!”

When I asked that, Lily froze.

“What’s wrong?”

Lily, seeming hesitant to talk, started to talk about that person’s present state.

Takami no Kago – Chapter 11

[tl : I'm not westernizing honorifics. The author didn't add any honorifics here, so I add Mr. on my own.]

Though the trip to Waleo Village couldn't be said went smoothly, it was within reason.

Even after attacked several times by monsters, we didn't suffered any loss.

Partly because there was not much difference in power between the monster that attacked us on the way and the one roaming outskirts the town.

We arrive at a village by evening. When we entered the village, we heard a rumour that we couldn't miss.

"Mutated orc, huh?"

"Yes, it seems lately they settled in the forest up ahead.

And some other merchants are opening their stall in this village."

Mr. Crest replied so in a voice mingled with sigh.[1]

If the merchants are refraining themselves from advancing, that means the rumour is trusted enough.

"Staying here too long is not a good plan, either.

If my presence here is learned, I think some people would related it with [Jade Silk]."

Mr. Crest is a quite-famous-merchant in Bureto Town, after all. His name is fairly known in [Jade Silk] business.

During this trip, Mr. Crest was claiming as Mr. Clain. Perhaps he has a lot of rivals, too.

"If we go, we would absolutely encounter them; is not guaranteed either. And I do want to advance with caution. What do you think?"

Mr. Crest turned to ask me. If I were to abandon the mission midway, I would be penalized.

However, life can't be bought. Many adventurers would abandon the mission if the situation exceed their abilities.

Knowing thou own limit is also one of adventurers' abilities. In this case, Mr. Crest has no choice.

If I were to return, though that would mean I abandon the quest, there is no one but me who would protect Mr. Crest until he return to Bureto.

However we've come this far. So it's natural if I want to go back with [Jade Silk] at hand.

Hmm, this might be a good chance to ask for more reward.

"Let's see, I don't mind advancing if you fulfilled my condition."

"Really? So, what's this condition of yours?"

"Could you give us a piece of [Jade Silk] clothing? Of course, I don't mind if you give it only if we have to fight mutated orc."

“That is…”

Mr. Crest starts to think. According to Ayla’s story, a piece of [Jade Silk] clothing worth several gold coins,

though we yet to know the mutated orc’s status, it’s likely that they’re quite strong.

I think that’s an appropriate reward if we manage to break the life-death situation when we encounter them.

“I understand. If you can subjugate it, I will give you my boasted item.”

It seems Mr. Crest think that there’s no problem since I would die if we encounter them.

And if we reach there safely without encountering one, he won’t have to give me special reward; so he’s not at disadvantage.

He’s even betting his own life, should I say as expected of a merchant?

We bought the minimum necessities in the village and headed towards the forest.

“We finally arrived at the village without accident. I thought I’ve raised a flag, though.”

“What is this flaeg you are talking about, Master?”

“If there were that many rumours about mutated orc, I thought they would appeared for sure.”

“But I heard mutated orc is really strong, so it is a good thing we did

not encounter them.”

When you say it with that smile, I’d felt guilty for only thinking about the special reward.

“You really are a honest and good girl, huh.”

I pat Ayla’s head.

Though she looks like ticklish, she doesn’t show any resistance. So I continue it.

When I play with Ayla, Mr. Crest returned.

“We are lodging in the village today. We will depart tomorrow around noon.

Poroia will come to get you, so you should wait in the inn. Waleo also has good sake, so I think you wouldn’t get bored.”

It seems he ordered us not to wonder around the village.

Well, not that there was anything I want to do in the village, so I better follow his instructions.

However, when I investigated it, I came to understand that Waleo’s local speciality, sake, is a frighteningly strong sake. To the level that it could lit with fire.

This village also has a custom on wedding ceremony to use the sake as source of light to party all night.

[Strong sake will repel monster]; seems like there’s that kind of belief, too.

However, since in the production of [Jade Silk] magic is needed to some

extent, the said strong sake might also involving some magic.

Though I'm worried if I were get drunk after drinking that sake,

if he says it like : "It's recommended for adventurers," that could means adventurers and sake are inseparable.

It might also means that he just want to recommend the sake, nothing else.

However, that night I was having passionate night with Ayla like there is no tomorrow in the inn instead of having sake.

Since there were Mr. Crest and co., I've neglected her these past few days.

And as if she's been greatly accustomed, she's assertive lately. That's a pleasant thing.

The next morning, I went to gather information in the inn's restaurant. I was curious about the mutated orc.

"Among people in the village, there was someone who saw it."

"What kind of monster is it?"

"I wonder... since orcs are unusual around here, maybe it's not normal orcs, y'see."

"Are there no orcs around here?"

"Yeah, since there are many goblins around here"

Goblins and orcs; both of these race have unique relation.

According to the inhabitant of the whole country in this continent, there are many cases where these two races can't exist together on the same place.

Since each other would preying upon the other one.

In a place with many orcs, goblin will be preyed by orcs, decreasing its number.

While in a place with many goblin, orc will be preyed by goblin, decreasing its number.

Because of that, as long as it's not within the unique environment like dungeon, these two races won't co-exist.

"Might it not be strayed orc mistaken as mutated orc?"

"That might be it. Beside, somehow the eye-witnesses aren't consistent.

One says "it was bigger than the normal orc."; other says "it was smaller."; another says "the color is green."; yet another says "nope, it's red."; Well, something like that."

"What about the possibility that there are several of them?"

"Well, I can't say there's no possibility. But y'see, if there are too many of them, the goblin in this forest won't sit down and let it pass."

"I see. I got it, thank you. Could I have that sake, please?"

Saying so, I leave some silver coins in the counter and order a strong sake as compensation before I go back to my room.

I rarely drink sake before, but I won't look like an adventurer if I don't

drink.

Though it was heartbreaking, it was also important job of an adventurer.

Poroia might come to summon me anytime soon. And so I change into my Equipments and stand by in my room.

"Sorry to keep you waiting."

By the time I finished changing, Poroia came to my room as though she has estimated it.

"No. I just finished my preparations."

Like that, we move out of the room and walk towards where the horse carriage is.

"It seems you talked about something with the inn owner, though."

Oops, who'd have thought she'd ask something like that.

"I was just asking about the mutated orcs. If you doubt it, should we go back to confirm it?"

After listening to my answer, as though Ayla realize we were being doubted, she glares at Poroia.

“No, I am just curious about it. If I hurt your feelings, I offer my apologies.”

It seems I have to keep my guard with this woman, too.

On the way back, I’ll position Ayla on the back to keep eye on them.

I beckon Ayla with my hand and issue my instructions through a whisper.

Though her tiger-ears twitching cutely, I’ll restrain my self for today.

“Yo, Hibiki-san. Did you slept well yesterday?”

“Yes, I was able to sleep soundly in a good bed for the first time in a while.”

“Good to hear that. Then, is it alright to depart now?”

“Yes, I don’t mind.”

In the end, there was nothing happened during my stay in the village.

Maybe they feel cautious towards me meeting mutated orc so we stayed shorter than scheduled.

Or they just finished their business faster than scheduled.

Without saying anything about the change on Ayla’s position, we departed.

Takami no Kago – Chapter 13

Amy was born as the second daughter in a merchant family.

She was already skilful since she was little, so she made her own accessories which surprised her family.

And since then, Amy aspired to be an [alchemist].

Her reason sure is trivial. Since the [alchemist] that could make anything also appeared in the picture book she liked back then, the coincidences were just piling up. Also, when Amy had having interest in [alchemist], her parents also had an [alchemist] guest staying in.

That person showed Amy various techniques.

Like how to refine potion and how to make accessories with many kinds of special effect. Amy who watch it closely was even more entranced by [alchemist].

And the chance showed up when she was 12. A temporary sub-branch of [Alchemist Guild] was built in Amy's hometown.

She who had been studying [alchemist] on her own made a judgement that she couldn't expecting more progresses.

Unlike [Adventurer Guild], [Alchemist Guild] was exclusive.

Even the missions are mostly fixed, there's no change for the better. [Alchemist] whose skill are up to some extent can earn some money enough to eat.

However, if you can be the guild executive, the missions are different from that of the lower positions'.

You'll always obligated to develop new things, and you'll received the appropriate research funds.

At the time, Amy negotiated directly with the guild executive. The guild executive who surprised at her action even though she was still 12, hired her as his assistant to test her [alchemist] skill.

The guild executive valued the excellence Amy. Since she was

participating in various researches as an assistant, she was conspicuously standing out.

2 years after, she progressed to the point she was appointed as the executive head assistant.

However, just as how many-researchers ignorant to her, Amy also trying to be as ignorant with them either outside of [alchemy].

And Amy who was disliked by the other head assistants around her, involved in a test's accident.

It was a performance test on item to enhance fire magic's power.

The test that originally weren't dangerous at all was causing huge accident.

The item that should be transmitting the power of the spirit of fire indirectly to the tester was imprisoning the mad spirit of fire directly.

The item that was filled with the fire's magical power released the spirit inside and after causing enormous damage to the research room, it rubbed off its curse on the tester, Amy, before it self-destructed.

All that was left were the [curse]d Amy and the unfunctioning laboratory that was reduced to nothing.

Amy was left in a situation where she had to take responsibility of the test's failure and had to pay for the urgent indemnities.

Although Amy couldn't make head or tail of what happened, realizing she was in a position where 'if she can't pay the indemnities until the deadline, she will ended up as a slave,' she immediately processed her cherished materials. However, the [alchemy] that should be ended without any mistake even if she closed her eyes, was ended in a mess. With her skill, she was supposed to be able earning money to pay the indemnities until the deadline.

Yet, with her skill obstructed by the [curse], she messed everything up.

And finally, she run out of materials; leaving her with no way to earn money to pay up the compensations.

What made her came to halt when she wandered around the city aimlessly and dumbfoundedly was the [Adventurer Guild]'s building.

[Adventurer Guild] and [Alchemist Guild] aren't particularly hostile to each other. In fact, for Adventurer Guild, Alchemist Guild is a good customer who would buy materials in a huge amounts; and for Alchemist Guild, Adventurer Guild is must-exist-distributor that can immediately collect materials they need.

"I'll be an adventurer and aim to get rich!"

Amy who was impatient quickly entered the Adventurer Guild.

The guild isn't that noisy inside. And maybe because it was still early in the morning, it was not crowded.

"First thing first, I need to get a mission."

Saying so, Amy headed towards the mission board, however, she regrettably didn't know how to earn money with mission.

While going to and fro between the mission board and reception desk, thinking whether she should asked the receptionist, she noticed someone was looking at her.

The one who was looking at her was a young man adventurer. He was looking at her curiously.

"Was there something strange in me?"

Although she didn't understand herself, Amy who suddenly felt uneasy that she might have done something improper for an adventurer, resolved herself and asked the man. This was, her first time meeting with

him.

He, not only saw through that she was a beginner, he also gave her some advises.

To take a mission, one had to register;

To register, money is needed;

Subjugation-type mission was quite rewarding since one could received subjugation reward and sold the materials;

Even so, that might not reached the target 15 gold coins.

"Just don't exert yourself. Although I'll be away for around 10 days, I could help you after."

Lastly, he concerned about my safely and said that he would helped.

But, 10 days are too long. The deadline to pay the compensations are 7 days.

Even if he come back safely, my problem will either too-late-for-help or already settled.

"Maybe I'm a little lucky being treated kindly by a kind person."

Although I've given up already, still it's better than doing nothing; finishing the registration, I took the relative weak mission, [Goblin] subjugation.

Early morning the day after, I who hurried myself to go to the forest near the town, saw adventurer-san who treat me kindly yesterday in the eastern gate's plaza.

As I tried to go to thanks him again, I stopped myself when I noticed the cute girl near him.

“Is she his girlfriend…”

Although I feel like something pricked my heart, I ignore it and advance to the forest.

The subjugation in the forest went well. Uh, at least I thought so.

The goblins that should be the prey was continuously showing themselves in front of me.

However, I fought the goblins, not going to lose.

When I, when I advanced forward I was already surrounded by 5 goblins by the time I realized.

Even after faced with that situation, I still optimistic. 5 goblins aren’t a problem if I fight carefully.

“Ei!”

I swing the short sword I aim at the goblin. However, the goblin dodge it easily.

“Eh?!”

I realized that it was a trap they set up. Up until now, the goblins were luring me to this place.

When I try to escape by running, trying to break through, 2 goblins block the passage. They read my movement.

This might be the end. The moment that thought float across my mind,

the goblin in front of me collapses.

And at the same time, I felt something went past by me.

When I turned to check, the 2nd goblin was annihilated.

The remaining goblins surround the intruder, and attack him from behind.

“Look out!!”

However, that person didn’t remain in the same place, he ran and avoided the goblins’ attacks; and when the goblins broke their stance, he slew the 3rd goblin.

“Amazing, 3 goblins are down in a moment.”

While he knocked the 3rd goblin down, the other two rebuild their posture and glaring at him.

And as though he paid no heed, he grasped the sword with both hands and suddenly separated his eyes from the goblins.

“Ayla! Now!”

Reacting to that voice, the goblins turn back. I also fooled and look behind the goblins, but there is no one.

Thinking what was all that about, I return my sight, only to find that the goblins’ necks cut off, annihilated.

“You alright?”

He asked me kindly.

I immediately said my gratitude and looked at his face.

“Y-Yes. Thank you for saving me from danger. Huh! You’re?!”

He was the kind adventurer yesterday.

“Hmm? Ah, yesterday’s alche—, uh, yesterday’s girl I met in the Adventurer Guild, right.”

Although he mumbled something, it seems he remembers me.

I felt happy, then I replied.

“Y-Yes. So you remembered me.”

“Well, since you’re a cute girl. And I thought I warned you not to exert yourself, though?”

“C-Cute isn’t—?! Ah, I-I’m sorry. Since I need the money no matter what…”

Him saying cute all of a sudden was causing my mind that just received warning from him in a mess; and when I was about to explain, I was interrupted by him.

“Anyway, we shall return to the horse-drawn carriage first.”

As though estimating him saying so, a horse-drawn carriage was coming. And the cute girl I saw this morning also there.

Seeing both of them talk so intimately, I felt another pricked in my heart.

After that, they returned to the road they came from and said that they would escort me back to the town, but as expected I can't ask to be spoiled. After I said my gratitude to him for saving me and was about to return to town, he handed me his spare sword.

"As expected I can't accept this."

"Then, think it like you owe me one. Since the sword's a consumable item, I don't mind if you didn't return it.

You could just return anything different to me. I'm Hibiki, an adventurer. Normally, I'd show myself in the guild every day. Just contact me if you want to return the debt."

He was, Hibiki-san was very kind.

"I understand. I will definitely return the debt."

I absolutely have to pay this debt.

It's so I can meet Hibiki-san again, too.

I finally arrived at the town safely. For the time being, let's go to the Adventurer Guild and give reporting about the subjugation.

Though it ended up like that, the number of goblins I've defeated before I was being surrounded was exceeding the required number of

the subjugation mission.

With this, I can saved up a little money.

In the remaining time I had, I pick all missions inside the town. After that event, I scared to go outside the town.

Since the next time I get attacked, Hibiki-san won't be there to help.

Although the reward is small, it's better than doing nothing.

15 gold coins is the amount of the compensations, as well as my selling price.

Slaves who has more debt than their selling prices will be sent to magic ore's excavation site, to pay up the remaining debt, when they become a slave.

Even if normal slave is sold with high price, there's no way it'd sell. And so, if their labour-to-pay-the-remaining-debt and their selling price exceeding the debt, they can finally be sold as normal slave.

However, because I have [curse] on me, my worth as a slave is little to nothing.

So, if I were to degrade into a slave with the amount of compensations as my selling price, I won't be able to come out from the excavation site.

The amount of money I've saved until now is 4 gold coins. That's all my money after I sold everything I have.

I'm in a state where I don't have a place to sleep tonight nor food to eat tomorrow.

However, I don't have to worry about that. Since I'll be working until I dead in the excavation site from tomorrow. Debt is better as little as possible.

Though only a little, at least it'll quicken my release a little as it may be.

"Nonetheless, there's no more thing I can do..."

Afternoon this day, I'll degrade into a slave. Once degraded as a slave, you'll lost all your social credibility. At last, the time has come, the slave dealer man showed up on the meeting place.

"Did you managed to collect the money?"

The man who should have known already the answer, asks so.

Since this also his job. Not feeling angry about it, I hand him a pouch with 4 gold coins and several silver coins inside.

"…unsufficient, huh. Then, get on the horse-drawn carriage."

The man wrote the condition on how I'd to pay my compensations, took out a parchment, and muttering one, two words.

After that, a round pattern was engraved on the back of my right hand. It's a [carved seal].

This is a magic contract that is most solid among all contract, that'll directly carved inside the body and will automatically punish upon a breaching.

This round pattern is something that will appears when someone degrade into a slave.

When bought by a master and an official contract was formed, the master's sign will appear inside the pattern.

Though it's irrelevant to me since I won't have a master as I have to continue working in the excavation site until I dead.

When I've given up, and headed towards the horse-drawn carriage; that time,

“Wait up!!”

Takami no Kago – Chapter 14

I surprised as I listened to Lily talked about Amy's present state. Amy has a large debt, and if she can't pay it by the deadline, she would become a slave. Moreover, the deadline is this afternoon. Lily who has been getting along with Amy these past week learnt from Amy about her circumstances. I convinced after listening to all of that. Regarding the reason Amy dressed shabbily even though she looked like a sheltered girl who didn't know how the world work. Why she took [Goblin] subjugation even though she looked like never had any fight before. Even if female adventurer could get stronger from disgust and fear, normally they wouldn't take [Goblin] subjugation request. After listened to all of that, I rushed out of the Adventurer Guild. Now, it was a little around afternoon. I heard Amy would be sent to the excavation site as soon as she become a slave. She's likely on the eastern gate's horse-drawn carriage boarding place. Fortunately, the guild building is near the eastern gate. I run full speed towards the horse-drawn carriage boarding place and barely manage to make it on time. As I survey the surrounding, I spotted Amy who's about to board the horse-drawn carriage. As I feel gratitude for my fortune that the horse-drawn carriage boarding place was few of people, made it possible for me to spot her soon, I shout in a loud voice.

"Wait up!!"

A man who I believe is a slave dealer turn towards me. It seems Amy also noticed me.

"What is it, young man."

The man asked me in an annoyed tone.

“Has she become a slave?”

“Hah? Yeah, she your acquaintance?”

It was too late. Though it would have settled if I were to come here earlier and shouldered Amy’s debt. Well, can’t be helped.

“Then I’ll buy her.”

Amy had a surprised expression on her. Even I didn’t understand why I would do something to this extent, even though I had only talk with her for a few times. However, I have interest in [alchemist], above all I can buy [curse]holder cheaper and can cure it myself. Thinking so, I decided to buy her.

“Buy? This girl? If you come to my place, I can show you better one, y’know?”

“No, I want her! It has to be her!”

As though overwhelmed by my vigor, the slave dealer step back as he told me Amy’s price.

“She’s a slave with debt, so she’s expensive, y’know. It’s 11 gold coins, and she has [curse] as a bonus, see.”

The man said it in a voice mixed with sigh. He must have thought I’d give up after I heard the price. 11 gold coins is by no means too

expensive for a slave's price. However, compared to Ayla's, who is also a [curse]holder, which is only 2 gold coins, Ayla's price certainly is a bargain. So, the 11 gold coins are mostly the amount of Amy's debt.

"Got it."

I take gold coins from my bag on the waist and hand it to the man.

"Hee, now that's surprising that you would go this far for someone like her. You fell for her?"

"Something like that."

Since the slave dealer handed me a parchment, I received it.

"This is?"

"That's her written oath. Sign right there."

Although there was no written oath like this when I bought Ayla, it seems Amy has it. When I signed it as I was told, a pattern floated up on Amy's backhand.

"With this she's your slave. If you ever need another slave, just come to Aura Co., m'kay."

As the man said so, he pull the horse-drawn carriage and walk towards

the town. Is it part of the rule that all slave dealer say that remark in the end? I laughed a little.

"U-Um."

When I turned around, Amy looked at me with a flushed red face. Even the people in the surrounding look at us with a grin.

"Nii-chan! You look cool, y'know!"

A man threw a heckle at me. What does he mean? When I think about it, I realize what 's going on. If I were to proceed by the flow just now, I look like a man who'd abandoned everything for a woman he loved.

"N-Nah, it's not like what you all think."

Although I tried to explain it to the people in the surrounding, I didn't know what to say, in the end I pulled Amy's hand and left from that place. When I pulled Amy's hand, suddenly I realized. I've left Ayla behind in the guild. And when I returned to the guild as is, Ayla was there, with an anxious expression on her. Ayla who noticed us, for some reason make a sad expression. Is she angry for being left behind?

"Master, did you not need me anymore?"

I who was taken aback by Ayla who asked with a tearful voice, finally realized the cause. It was me who still gripped Amy's hand.

“N-No, you’re wrong. Amy is our new companion, you see.”

I feel nothing would change. For the time being, I hug and pat Ayla who burst into tear to calm her down. Since I rarely did this lately, and although I didn’t too in the middle of escorting, she sometimes would cried at night. It seems like the flashback of ‘her memory when she had a hard time’ was the reason of it. And when that happened, I would hugged her and patted her head like this, and spent the night together ‘til morning.

“Beside, there’s no way I’d throw you away, right? Or are you don’t want to be with me anymore?”

“Nonsense. I want to be together with Master forever.”

“I see, then we’ll be together forever.”

“Yes.”

Ayla buries her face in my bosom and starts to rub her cheek on me. It seems she has calmed down. Although it’s also so when she cries at night, Ayla’s basically like to be spoiled. When we are alone, she would often snuggle up to me. However, it’s unusual for her to behave like a spoiled girl like this in a place with many people like this.

“Um~”

Out of frying pan into the fire. This time, it was Amy who was sulking.

“It’s not that I mind it, but as expected it’s hurt if someone who said it has to be me a while ago is hugging another woman.”

Hearing that, Ayla stopped rubbing her cheek and pouted. She glares at Amy as she clings my right hand tightly. Amy who notices Ayla’s glare, starts to cling to my left hand. I who was interposed between them could feel spark flying between them.

“F-For the time being, should we grab some food? Since both of you haven’t introduce yourself to each other, too.”

The good-for-nothing me could somehow spoke a proposal, to get out of this situation.

As expected, we have a meal in a tense atmosphere. In a 4-person table, seated 2 women and I who sat facing them. What kind of torture is this?

It was Amy who first broke the silent in this tense atmosphere.

“Er, firstly I have to say my gratitude. Thank you very much for saving me. Let me return this favor by working for Master.”

Listening to that, Ayla replied.

“Are you also being saved by Master, too?”

“Yes, I’m a debtor slave. Moreover, I also a [curse]holder, so if Master

didn’t purchase me, I would be sent to work in excavation site.”

“I-I was about to be thrown into a dungeon when Master purchased me!”

Hmm, the talk is progressing. Let’s wait and see for a while, then.

“I was treated kindly in the Adventurer Guild, and after that he saved my life. Then this time that person become my Master. That’s really leave a deep impression in me. Is this something you would call fate?”

“H-He said I was cute so he purchased me!”

“…He also said the same thing after he saved me.”

H-Huh? Things didn’t look good?!

Ayla finally stood up from the chair and started to speak fervently.

“I get praised for being helpful in a battle!”

Amy who was being saved when a monster attacked her look vexed.

“Even I would prove helpful! Although it’s a bit difficult in a battle, if it’s [alche, my]…”

Amy ended her word in a low voice. Why, I guess? Ahh, it must be her [curse].

“Now then, since we’ve done having meal, should we return to the inn?”

Since if both of them were to continue quarrelling, it would cause troubles to the store, I calm them down and lead them towards the inn.

Leading both of them, we return to the inn. When I told the old man that I wanted to change into a 3-person room, he told me that there were no ‘more than 2’-person room. And yet he charged me for 3 people! This inn should just go bankrupt! Then, as soon as we returned to the room, I’m going to lift Amy’s [curse]. I beckon Amy, put my hand on her shoulder, and concentrate on [Divine Protection of Light]. Like the last time I did it with Ayla, the room is engulf in light. After that, I check Amy’s status.

****

Amy Lv.4

Alchemist

14 years old

HP 368 (+123)

Atk 66 (+22)

Agi 81 (+27)

Int 149 (+50)

Luk 131 (+44)

[Divine Protection of God of Craftsman (follower)]

Effect : Raise production-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stacked | Target : Party

▼

****

Yup, the [curse] is gone. However, the same symbol as the Mimic Orc's appears. Perhaps it indicates [skill]. I concentrate on it.

****

Amy Lv.4

Alchemist

14 years old

HP 368 (+123)

Atk 66 (+22)

Agi 81 (+27)

Int 149 (+50)

Luk 131 (+44)

[Divine Protection of God of Craftsman (follower)]

Effect : Raise production-related status (Large)

Doesn't stacked | Target : Party

Skill

【Item Creation】★★★

Makes it possible to create item.

【Item Creation Correction（Divine Protection）】

When creating item, it will receive correction.

Depend on level

【Effect Bestowal】★★

Bestow effect on weapon, armor.

【Effect Bestowal Correction（Divine Protection）】

When bestowing effect, it will receive correction.

Depend on level

****

I see, so Item Creation is a skill. However, why couldn't I see her skills last time I did a status-check? Is it because we've become a party now?

Nonetheless, there should be no skill in Ayla. Thinking so, I also check Ayla's status.

****

Ayla Lv. 8

Warrior

15 years old

HP 908 (+303)

Atk 272 (+91)

Agi 507 (+169)

Int 152 (+51)

Luk 152 (+51)

[Divine Protection of God of War (follower)]

Effect : Raise combat-related status (Large)

Target : Self

Skill

[Monster Tamer]

Control monster and command it.

[Monster Tamer Correction (Divine Protection)]

(+#) on control power towards monster

(+#) on growth rate when commanding monster

****

There they are, [skills]! Rather, it's a Monster Tamer? And why did I suddenly gain the ability to see skills?

Thinking back, there were also some changes in my status which I had completely forgot, I checked on it too..

****

Hibiki Jinno Lv. 13

Swordsman

16 years old

HP 750 (+250)

Atk 147 (+49)

Agi 147 (+49)

Int 273 (+91)

Luk 585 (+195)

[Divine Protection of God of War]

Effect : Raise combat-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stacked | Target : Party

[Divine Protection of God of Wisdom]

Effect : Raise magic-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stacked | Target : Party

[Divine Protection of God of Craftsman]

Effect : Raise production-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stacked | Target : Party

[Divine Protection of God of Healing]

Effect : Raise holiness-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stacked | Target : Party

[Divine Protection of God of Appraisal]

Effect : Makes it possible to appraise everything

Target : Self

[Divine Protection of God of Trading]

Effect : Makes trading become advantageous

Target : Self

[Divine Protection of Light]

Effect : Removes all abnormal status

Target : Any

Skill

【The Spawn of The Sage】★

Becomes possible to learn all magic.

【Job Seeker】★

Could change job.

【The Knowledge of A Master】★

Able to utilize the slave's skill he possesses.

The reproduction rate is depend on level

****

Oh, as expected of my [skills]. Somehow it sounds cool. First, there's 【The Spawn of The Sage】. [Magic], キタ――゜+.ヽ(≧▽≦)ノ.+゜――ッ！！ However, when I tried to use it, nothing happened. Huh, how do you use magic again? Oh well, let's leave it at this for now.

Next is【Job Seeker】. Well, there's no hurt trying this. And so, I concentrate on【Job Seeker】skill inside my mind. Then, some windows show up near Ayla and Amy. When I look closely, some words displayed

on it.

****

Ayla Lv. 8

◎ Warrior

○ Swordswoman

○ Monster Tamer

○ Villager

● Beast Warrior

● Dark Knight

● Ninja

****

****

Amy Lv. 4

◎ Alchemist

○ Swordswoman

○ Villager

● Magician

● Blacksmith

****

So there's also Monster Tamer [job] on Ayla, however, it seems she can't choose Beast Warrior and Dark Knight, eh. Is there any unfulfilled requirements? As for Amy, she couldn't be Magician and Blacksmith, even though it displayed there. Is it because those are production-related jobs? If it couldn't be chosen, it shouldn't be displayed. I feel like I somehow get the gist of it after looking at their displayed job. Perhaps the [jobs] that were displayed are the ones they possible could change into.

When I'm wondering whether I can use【Job Seeker】on myself or not, I look at myself and a window shows up.

****

Hibiki Jinno Lv. 13

◎ Swordsman

○ Warrior

○ Magician

○ Monk

● Monster Tamer

● Alchemist

● Magic Knight

● Sage

****

Perhaps, it's the effect of【The Knowledge of A Master】that Monster Tamer and Alchemist are only showing up on mine. Although I don't know is it 'because Ayla and Amy's levels are low,' or 'because【The

Knowledge of A Master】's level is low.' However, it seems Amy can become a Magician and Blacksmith. And perhaps I couldn't use magic because my [job] wasn't a Mage. I should confirm it later.

Although I've experience the effect of【The Knowledge of A Master】just now; That is, I can also use Ayla and Amy's skills. From what I see, it seems [skill] is depending on [job] to some extent. However, I can't conclude whether it's 'since the [skill] is this, the [job] become like this,' or 'since the [job] is this, the [skill] become like this.' Yup, it's like 'chicken first or egg first.' I should confirm this later, too.

When I'm full thinking about that, Amy looks at me anxiously. Ah, I see. I was looking at the status for quite a long time, I must have looked dazed ever since we returned.

"Sorry, I was thinking about something."

"No need. Um, what was that light just now?"

Now that she mentions it, Ayla also asked the same thing before. So I should give the same answer.

"Just now, I lifted your [curse]."

Like when I replied Ayla, I replied it like it was no big deal.

"...are Master a [priest]?"

“Nope, I’m a swordsman.”

“???”

It seems Amy isn’t convinced, like Ayla. And so, I play my trump card.

“I have [Divine Protections], you see.”

And now that surprised her.

“Then you were lifting the [curse] using the [Divine Protection] power?”

“Yeah. Ayla there also had a curse.”

If she knows of someone who is in her shoes, maybe she would feel relief. Thinking so, I told her that I also lifted Ayla’s [curse]. Amy looked at Ayla with great interest, and Ayla who feels embarrassed being watch by Amy. Even now, Ayla’s fear towards strangers hasn’t been cured, although she was surprisingly daring and resolute towards her battle partner.

“Anyway, listen. You guys should get along, ‘kay.”

Even I know, they wouldn’t just getting along so easily with that. First, I should make both of them used to operating in a 3-person team. If this could go well, perhaps most things would go well, too. The suns are still high in the sky, and that means I have plenty of time. However, if Amy really disliked this method, I need to think of different approach. Since I’ve used to always respect Ayla’s intention when I’m with her.

“Both of you, come here.”

I beckoned Amy and Ayla to come to the bed. Ayla immediately comes near me, however Amy looks like hesitating. I tried my best not to pressure Amy as I embraced Ayla who came near me. I didn’t do it violently, since I did it to show it to Amy. When I did a light skinship-like bodytouch, Ayla accepted it even though she looked ticklish. After about 5 minutes had passed, I call Amy again with my left hand as I kept embracing Ayla with my right hand.

“Come, Amy.”

I tried to call Amy as gently as possible. And as though she had resolved herself, Amy came near me. When she came within my reach, I embrace Amy with my left hand. There is plenty of time. I thought so as I kept pouring my love towards them.

Takami no Kago – Chapter 16

Now then, the night had past and it was all good that friendships had somewhat sprout between the two; however there was still a problem. The bed's too narrow. It seemed the double bed in this world is slightly smaller than the one from my former world. Well, I only ever seen double bed there from television, though. With me in the middle, both of them on each side, barely manage not to fall from the bed. Guess it's time to move into an inn with comfy bed.

"That being said, we have no money."

As of now, I only have a little over 1 gold coin. And if I were to buy equipments for Amy, that would left only half of this, huh.

"Is that so?"

Ayla asked curiously.

"Um, is it perchance because of me?"

Asked Amy apologetic.

"Nah, it's because I'm unreliable."

I won't let anyone say that buying Amy is a waste. No biggie, I'll earn more in no time. Worst case, I could earn some money by selling [Jade Silk Robe (None)]. However, that's only a last mean. Since it's something I got after staking my life; beside if I were to sell it, perhaps Crest would

hear of it. And if that happens, a feeling of distrust would arise. It's also possible that he would take advantage of it. Well, there's no telling whether he'll remember me who only escort him once, though. Anyway, I have to buy equipments for Amy. When she became a slave, the only thing she has are the clothes she was on. We buy Amy's necessities, starting from the clothes shop continuing to the equipments shop. For Amy's equipments, I pick the same as us; [Leather Armor], [Leather Shoes], and [Leather Gauntlet]. However, I'm not picking [Wooden Shield] and [Iron Sword] for her, but a [Shortbow]. It's because I plan to make Amy as the rearguard. As of right now, looks like there are no monsters in the nearby forest who can deal a fatal damage towards us. However, there's also no telling that there are no mutants like Mimic Orc in this forest, and there may also be strong monster we haven't encountered. There might come time when we need someone to use potion or the like on other members as well. That's why we need to train fighting in a formation with vanguard and rearguard. I explained so to Ayla and Amy. Ayla's roles aren't that different from before, as for Amy, she had just joined the party. So they should be able to perform their own roles without any hitch. After we've got Amy's equipments, we head to the guild. Today I want to test the skills in the forest. And it would be great if there are any request we could do while we're at it. There was a [Harvest Herbs x 5] request. If it's this request, I could immediately find it using status-check in the forest, even if I couldn't find one, I have spare herbs on me which are more than enough for the harvest request.

"Then, I'll take this."

I hand the [Harvest Herbs x 5] request paper and the guild card to Lily to have her process the request acceptance's procedure.

"Alright, it's done. It seems yesterday you made it on time, eh."

Lily looked at Amy and float a smile. In the end, Amy became a slave. I don't think I made it on time. I self-loath myself who last night was thinking I couldn't save Amy even though I've done what has to be done.

"You three, try not to hurt yourself, alright."

I wave at Lily and leave the guild. I feel like being blamed when we're talking about Amy. Although I know it's all just me over-thinking it. We might have advanced in a somewhat quicker pace than usual. When we reached the entrance of the forest, Amy asked me.

"Um, are you perchance worrying about me?"

I was startled since she hit the nail. When I'm about to reply that she's wrong, I realize that saying it could means the other way so I shut my mouth. Since not worrying about her meant I'm happy with her current circumstances.

"I'm fine, really. I feel nothing but thankful for my current circumstances. Beside, the condition also said "After all the debt has been paid, you're free," in my written oath."

Unlike a demi-human who only need to be purchase to free it; to free human who has become slave, there are several conditions that had to be fulfilled. One of it is to pay up all the debt before they became a slave to the current master. A slave can also bring their own belongings if the master permits it. Though that's it. Since someday the master could seize all of the slave's belongings they've saved.

“Therefore, as long as Master permit it, I want to stay this way and pay my debt to Master gradually.”

“That being said, that is only as long Master fine with it.”

“But why? Aren’t people normally don’t wanna be slaves?”

“Since I haven’t return your favor of saving me, also, although it’s disrespectful, but I love Master.”

Upon hearing her honest impression of him, Hibiki crimsons.

“G-Got it. Thanks.”

There was no more words coming from him. Until Ayla who was silent up til now open her mouth.

“I love Master, too!”

“Th-That so? Thanks, Ayla.”

“Yes!”

Trying to change the somewhat tense mood, Hibiki starts to speak his intention today.

“Shall we test our [skills] today?”

When yesterday I asked Ayla and Amy on how did the [skill] is recognized as one, they said it was recognized like how a certain job showing a certain effect when a certain procedure was performed. For example Amy's [Alchemist], when she focuses on making item or bestowing effect to item in her head, a mysterious power will covered her. Roughly speaking, if we focus on "what we want to do" in our head, the [skill] will be executed. Certainly, when I focused on【Job Seeker】it did the trick.

"Do you want me to make an item here?"

Amy made a strange expression. I see, if I want to try our [skills], then that also goes for [Alchemist].

"Right, then let's start from Amy. Is there any item you could easily make?"

"If there are materials, then I could make almost all items."

"I see, then could you make [Potion]?"

One type of magic potion, potion. It could means much if we could self-produce this.

"Yes, the materials are [Slime Liver] and [Herb]. Are those available?"

"Yup, I got both with me."

I always prepare herbs and I also have some [Slime Liver] in my bag. Though it's called liver, it feels just like a stone. Even carrying it isn't that inconvenience. Monster will vanish like melting some moments after it dies. After that, it will leave material in its place. For [Mimic Orc's Blood], although it was like a blood, it was flabby like a leather bag with splish-splash liquid inside it. Convenient as it is, it's also very strange. Beside all that, I also stocking some monster's materials that often dropped in a subjugation request. Subjugation request for [Goblin] that immediately increases in number and [Sharp Wolf] that would be troublesome in a large pack will appear once a week. [Slime Liver] delivery request often appear as well. I see, no wonder since it's a material for [Potion]. As I hand both materials to Amy, she holds each in one hand and unites it in front of her chest,

"【Item Creation】"

A light suddenly shone and gone not long after. Though it looked like the light when a [curse] was lifted, is it of the same light?

"It's done."

"Good work."

Receiving the [Potion], I check its status.

****

[Potion +4]

Effect

Restore HP to some extent.

****

There was +4 beside its name. It's often appear in RPG, perhaps the item's effect is stronger than the normal one. Since I think there were no item with "+" when I went to the equipments shop, maybe it's not distributed in the market. Though +4 don't amount much in a game sense, I don't know how it is here.

"Amy, do you know what's the meaning of an item with plus in it?"

"Plus? I don't know much. If it's potion with higher effect, there's hi-potion."

"I see, is there any potion with stronger effect or weaker effect?"

"Yes, potion made by an experienced alchemist will have higher effect than the one made by a newcomer."

If the one who make it a good person, it'll come good. It's obvious in a way, however that might also be the reason item with "+" isn't distributed.

"Similarly in alchemy, when bestowing effect, experienced alchemist will have stronger effect."

“I see, got it. Sorry, but please make another potion.”

“Yes. I got it.”

When I asked Amy to make another potion, as expected it was another [Potion +4]. When I inquired her whether she’s good at making potion or not, she said that it’s normal. Just in case, I check the potion I have, however it had no “+” on it. After that, we tried using【Effect Bestowing】on my spare [Silver Sword]. It seems the effect that could be bestowed just by using the Alchemist’s [skill] is strengthening the weapon’s current attribute. In [Silver Sword] case, that would be sharpness enhancement, durability enhancement, and weight reduction. And it would be possible to choose which effect to bestow if one have【Effect Bestowing】. Although it’s also possible to bestow magic attribute’s effect, some catalyst is needed. For now, I have her bestowed weight reduction on [Silver Sword]. When I check its status,

****

[Silver Sword]

Atk+15

【Effect】Weight reduction (Moderate)

****

is written there. And when I hold and swing it, it does a bit lighter. Or not? Well it’s only to the extent we can’t quite tell the difference. That being said, if there’s no concept of “+” in this world, that means the

people couldn’t do status-check on item or weapon. If that’s the case, then how do they distinguish one with【Effect Bestowing】? When I ask that to Amy, she says full-grown [merchant] could tell the difference. Most likely a [skill], eh. The reason equipments shop didn’t put equipments【Effect Bestowing】in stall is because every [Alchemist] could do【Effect Bestowing】to what Amy just performed extent, so there’s no need to put weapon with low level【Bestowing】in stall. If they need to, they could ask [Alchemist] they know for cheap, since one with high effect【Bestowing】mostly wouldn’t be distributed, and they could also request a competent [Blacksmith] directly if they have the influence. Most likely, this sword’s【Effect Bestowing】’s effect is higher thanks to【Effect Bestowing Correction】, so it’s exceptional compared to the one with【Effect Bestowing】from other [Alchemist]. Although I feel the result is greatly difference than [Item Creation]’s result, it seems bestowing effect on equipments is [Blacksmith]’s speciality. Perhaps [Blacksmith] could make equipments with “+” on it as well. Having created potion “+4” must be the effect of [Divine Protection of God of Craftsman]. Not only raise on status, but also effective on [skill], eh. That being said, it won’t always be effective, huh. Perhaps it might also depend on [Job]. Since it’s impossible to verify it as there’s no [Blacksmith], we aren’t going to check it now.

“Now then, next is【Monster Tamer】, eh.”

Chapter 17

In games,specific monsters can become companion monsters.

Since there aren't any monsters in the beginning, I start off by looking for monsters, but they do not readily come out.

I thought that there would be a monster if I went near the『Fountain of Slime』, but I arrived without meeting a monster at all.

"What is that slime?"

There was a reddish slime at the『Fountain of Slime』. The common slime is transparent, this one is not.

This strange slime had defeated a goblin.

When I found it the goblin had more than half of it's body devoured by the body of the slime and the rest of it's body is covered in slime.

The silhouette of the goblin was gradually becoming shorter and had already shrunk to about 30cm in total length.

It is bigger than a common slime, whilst saying that the slime dragged the goblin's body as it assimilates it, It started to move slowly.

"A『Mutant』slime huh? Maybe it's because of that slime there aren't any monsters in this area."

I confirmed the monster's status whilst Amy says so.

****

Gluttony Slime Lv.7

Mutant 0 years old

Stamina

660

Strength

60

Agility

60

Intelligence

85

Luck

35

Skills

【Storage】★★

Able to store things inside it's body

The quantity is dependant on level

****

The status is not as large as Amy suggested. If it's just this not only a sharp wolf, but even a group of goblins can defeat it.

However this is a『Mutant』monster with a skill. It may have a special attack method.

Normally I should not approach it carelessly. However with the timing

this『Mutant』slime appeared.

When I noticed I changed Ayla's job to Demon Trainer.

I don't understand what type of job Demon Trainer is or what effect the Demon Trainer skill has, but the change of job seems to have a higher success rate.

"Ayla, make that monster a companion."

"Eh? A companion?"

"I think it should be possible to use a skill to make it a companion."

"U…Understood."

Ayla faces the the Mutant slime alone. I prepare myself to help immediately if needed.

The slime is vulnerable to fire and magic. Because I've yet to try magic, I light a torch.

The slime seemed to notice Ayla. It began to move toward Ayla slowly.

When the distance between the two became approximately 5m the slime suddenly stopped moving.

Ayla considers the slime with an serious face. The considered slime slightly jiggles.

The stand off continues for about 10 minutes. Ayla suddenly raises up her right hand and the slimes bodies expanded in response.

Was it a failure? Ayla lowers her arm and we take a stance as the slime begins to move.

Ayla waves her arm up and down several degrees and the slime

answers it.

It’s a very strange scene, but it seems to be following Ayla’s instructions somehow or other.

“Ayla did it work?”

“Yes master. This child is listening to what I say.”

It’s a success. It seems Ayla and the slime are able to communicate.

A common slime which sprang out of the fountain of slime was made a companion as a trial for [Demon Trainer], but it was only able to follow simple orders and did not have the intelligence to understand what it heard or communicate.

Because I didn’t have a use for the slime I decided to feed it to the gluttony slime. As it took in the slime it’s colour became lighter and it’s volume slightly increased, but returned to normal immediately. Where did the increased amount go?

Because I didn’t want to call it slime forever, I decided to give it a name.

“Well, what kind of name is good?”

Because it is a gluttony slime is Gula fine?

“Because it’s a slime, Sula is good.”

Amy gives her opinion. It’s simpler than mine.

“How about Ruby because it’s a beautiful red slime?”

I decided on a name that was cosiderably more proper than our opinions.

“Your name is Ruby, best regards Ruby.”

Ruby seems to understand what we’re saying. Its body jiggles frequently when it’s happy. Its intelligence is awfully high even for its status.

As expected its body jiggles when Ayla touches it because she’s recognised as its master, but it also jiggles when Ayla or I touch it.

Even if I touch Ruby, Ruby seems to understand our intent and adjusts its body’s viscosity so that my hand isn’t swallowed inside its body.

It’s interesting, but I don’t know whether it can become a war pontential yet, but it ate a goblin so lets have some expectations there.

As I thought about it I remembered that there were no monsters in the area. Amy thought Ruby was the cause, but I wonder what the real reason is?

“Ayla please ask Ruby the reason why there are so few monsters here.”

“Understood.”

Ayla began to talk to Ruby who was held to Aria’s chest.

Hearing the story, Ruby was not involved with the disappearance of monsters. It seems Ruby was born after an increase in the number of slimes near the spring and because of the disappearance of other

monsters Ruby began cannibalaism.

Then why did the monsters disappear? We seem to be cause. As a result of continually coming to this forest and hunting during this month, the monsters in the area seem to have been killed or run away.

This forest is unbelievably large. According to the stories it seems it would take a person more than a week to come out the other side on foot.

It is caused by us hunting monsters here which do not have a subjugation request recently. The surviving monsters seem to have migrated by the time we passed the town guards.

It's possible Mimic Orc that were near Wereo may have been lured into coming here from somewhere else by the monsters' migration.

According to Ruby's words, I came to understand the recent large movements of monsters and lost goblins occasionally coming to the spring. After some consideration, it became known as the massive migration of monsters.

"Is the annihilation of monsters near town bad?"

"I don't think you need to worry about that. Even if there is a temporary decrease, a perfect extinction is almost impossible and once the migration ends, the number of monsters will increase again and may return to this area."

Monster reproduction is very quick. Goblins seem to take two weeks from birth to become adults. the fertility of monsters seems to be several times that of normal creatures even if they aren't goblins.

For that reason it seems the number of monsters in the area will immediately increase and recover.

“I think they’ll be killed at any rate and it isn’t a problem if a monster is missed. Work for adventurers isn’t only monster subjugation and they are basically vagrants. If there isn’t enough game they’ll simply move on to a different town.”

Is that also the case? The mosters won’t go extinct because of the demons and demonlord. In addition Amy told me that it was because magic power overflowed in this world. Temporarily decreasing the numbers isn’t a big deal.

“Is it alright to bring Ruby to town?”

“A demon trainer can enter town with a monster companion.”

Is that so? Then demon trainer is finished for the time being. What should I change my ‘job’ to next?

Using【Job Changer】I try changing my job to『Magician』.

****

Hibiki Jinno Lv.13

Magician 16 years old

Stamina

750(+250)

Strength

147(+49)

Agility

147(+49)

Intelligence

273(+91)

Luck

585(+195)

[Divine Protection of the God of War]

Effect: Raises combat-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stack | Target : Party

[Divine Protection of the God of Wisdom]

Effect: Raises magic-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stack | Target: Party

[Divine Protection of the God of Craftsman]

Effect: Raises production-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stack | Target: Party

[Divine Protection of the God of Healing]

Effect: Raises holy-related status (Large)

Doesn’t stack | Target: Party

[Divine Protection of the God of Appraisal]

Effect: Makes it possible to appraise everything

Target: Self

[Divine Protection of the God of Trading]

Effect: Makes trades more profitable

Target: Self

[Divine Protection of Light]

Effect: Removes all abnormal status

Target: Any

Skill

【Sage in the making】★

Able to aquire every magic

【Job Changer】★

Able to change jobs.

【Master's knowledge】★

Able to use the skills of one's slaves.

The degree of reproduction depends on level.

****

There seems to be no change in my status and skills. I thought I would surely get the skill『Fire magic』. When I concentrate my thoughts on 【Sage in the making】,

****

Magic list MP 315/315

****

There is MP, but it seems there is no magic yet

For the time being let's test various ways.

"Fire, Thunder, Water."

I cry out various things, but there is no result.

Ayla is speechless. Amy,

"What are you doing?"

says directly.

"I intended to use magic"

"Why did you shout to use magic?"

"You don't shout?"

"I don't shout."

They don't seem to shout for magic in this world.

"Magic is something you learn by training."

“Isn’t there an incantation or magic circle?”

“I’ve not heard of it. The rank is divided according to how much much one can manipulate an attribute. Oh, I think there are people who do various things for mental concentration.”

In other words, there is neither an incantation and nor does there seem to be a magic called ‘Fire Ball’. There are people who practice making fire like a ball, manipulating the flame and throwing it at the other party.

It seems appropriate to call it ‘Fire Ball’

“What do you do for training?”

“In the case of training fire magic you manipulate your magic freely through the flame of a candle.”

With water a pail of water is used. The part of manipulating magic through the thing you wish to manipulate appears to be the same.

This is special training for when I return. Because there was an indication of MP in the list of magic, I should have magic power itself.

“By the way, what can a『Priest』do?”

“『Priest』can perform recovery. They’re able to detoxify and remove light curses.”

“What is the difference from『Shinto priest』?”

“The person necessary for a party of a adventurers is a “priest”. There is a slightly limited amount of curses which can be removed. A “priest” couldn’t remove my “curse”.”

“Ah, Is that why you asked me whether I was a『Shinto priest』?”

“Yes, Because I didn’t have the money to ask a『Shinto priest』to remove my curse. When you become a『Shinto priest』you get a position at the church.”

In other words, is it that『Priest』work as adventurers to get a high level so that they can become『Shinto Priest』and work in the church?.

It is different from my original world. If I’m not mistaken『Priest』are Buddhist and『Shinto Priest』follow Shintoism. Well this is talking about Japan at least.

I change my job to『Priest』using【Job changer】. After all the skills do not increase. Perhaps it’ll be added to the magic list of【Sage in the making】from now on like magician.

“Do you know how『Priest』trains?”

Is it training or is it study in this case?

“Because『Priest』study is not to be leaked to outsiders, I do not understand it in detail.

It is an important source of income. Oh, perhaps it’ll be the same as magician. I send magic power into the thing I want to manipulate and operate it and the more I do this the better it’ll become.

“Alright, for the time being I’ll stop. Let’s gather some medical herbs as we return to town this time.

It probably isn’t night yet, but it will be sunset soon. We’re in the forest so it’s already dim. By the time we arrive in town is will be completely dark.

“Yes, understood.”

“After all I did not meet many monsters and we lost momentum because it was our first campaign as a party.”

We returned to town with Ruby.

Chapter 18

We have returned to town, the renewal of Ayla's card took a little time but the others were finished without any particular problem.

The guard who saw Ruby did not react much even though she's a slime.

The public people change jobs a lot and sometimes even change overnight; items like the guild card don't seem to be used in order to determine the identity everybody coming in.

We go to the guild next in order to complete the herb collection quest and obtain Ayla's guild card.

「Welcome back, Hibiki, looks like it went smoothly」

Lily was at the reception desk when we walked up. She has been here since we departed this morning and is still here when we got back.

「Same to you, good job working from this morning」

Lily became happy since being thanked by adventures was a rare occurrence.

They deliver 5 herbs and receive the reward. Even though the guild buys up extra materials, it is necessary to save some ingredients to make their own potions.

「What is this, only bringing this many herbs even though you used up the whole day」

Looking behind, a bad looking man is smirking and laughing, behind him followed two other men that are also snickering.

「I guess that previous merchant escorting wasn't that a big of a deal」

This guy, he even knows about the escort request, who is he? I decided to check his status.

****

Ganford Delvaux Lv.18

Swordsman 26 years old

Stamina

556(+50)

Strength

102(+5)

Agility

88(+5)

Intelligence

79(+5)

Luck

90(+5)

『Divine Protection of the Sword』

Strength status of the individual is raised (small)

Self-Targeted

Skill

【Sword】★★

Ability to master the sword weapon system.

****

It seems like it's an adventurer with a『Divine Protection』

「Hibiki, those guys are the party that was introduced to the quest before you」

Lily informed us about the other party. I understand now, they are technically a small party with a『Divine Protection』holder.

The fact that they were rejected and a younger inexperienced party was chosen instead probably bothered them.

Certainly, Ganford has a『Divine Protection』but its effects are very small.

The increase in my status increases with my base stats and is gradually raised, however his status increase seems to be a small fixed amount.

「Shud up! We came to place a complaint about that gatekeeper!」

I guess he heard us talking, Ganford began to yell.

The adventurers that were rejected at the door were you guys, huh.

「If that gatekeeper wasn't there then we would have gotten that request, you guys stole it from us」

「I officially received that request from the guild, in other words does that mean you have a problem with how the guild operates?」

「Na!? This has nothing to do with the guild!」

Ganford begins to it deny it in a hurry, however I return fire immediately.

「Then this has nothing to do with us then right? Since this has nothing to do with the guild」

Ganford's party begins to stumble back slowly from my words, it seems like he's realized that it be a bad situation to start a fight here.

He probably just started picking a fight reflexively after hearing my name. It was an action taken with little to no thought.

However, it's true that the gatekeeper seems like he would cause trouble though.

「I apologize Hibiki, Ganford has an abnormally high amount of pride」

Lily seems to be feeling apologetic.

I guess that's obvious. The reason that Ganford even found out about us taking the request is due to information leakage from the guild.

He had probably heard about me from the success of the request, and since the quest required someone with『Divine Protection』and so I who had successfully finished the quest as a holder of『Divine Protection』was targeted.

「Ahh, I'm not bothered at all, I'm just pushing my problems onto the guild」

Information leakage is normal anywhere. It's the fact that there is indifference in certain places that is the problem.

From the outside I probably look like a young upstart with『Divine Protection』, there are probably a lot of people that don't feel good about me.

It might be necessary to interact positively with the surrounding people for a while.

However, it would be good to not get along too well with others, since I am still ignorant about this world and may get dragged along into something bad.

「Just, can you inform me as much as you can about people like him?」

「Alright, I'll tell you as much as I can, however don't expect too much」

「Iya, hearing that Lily will help us makes me relieved, besides you I don't have anyone else to rely on 」

「...don't say things like that too often to other people, you are pretty popular within the guild Hibiki」

「There's no way I'm that popular」

「It's true though, you don't yell at the other guild members, or act recklessly, and you act politely along with seeming strong」

We might be able to find some information of other adventurers immediately, while talking to Lily, let's ask about other people.

「Really, to become popular by not acting recklessly, just how much do the other guys rampage around?」

「What do you mean, aren't adventurers a gathered group of ruffians」

It is true that every time I came to the guild there seemed to be someone making a ruckus, and since I didn't want to stand out I ignored it. I even began to come in the early morning when there was less people.

「Even I wasn't trying to be polite, it was just that I understood that causing a fight inside the guild was a bad idea」

「That is the reason. People that think like that are rare and valuable」

Apparently my current attitude is too polite to be thought of as an adventurer. Well, it's not like I plan on changing how I act any time soon.

「Then, could you tell the weak spirited me about other people in this guild that would try to bully me? Well, asking this after coming here for a month already probably makes me a risky adventurer as well.」

「Even trying to prepare yourself against others is a very amazing thing. All of the other adventurers learn about their enemies by being harmed」

Are adventurers beasts or something?

「However, the guild here is relatively small with no lead adventurers and there aren't that many people to look out for」

「Lead?」

「Yep, lead adventurers. If you don't know about them I can explain」

「Yea, please tell me」

「Lead adventurers are the various adventurers that support the guild in each town. Each town has 1 or 2 lead adventurers, while the types of jobs they due are varied, the common point is the fact that they are hired by the guild」

「Does that make them a guild member? Do they get paid a monthly salary?」

「That's right, a lead adventurer is always receiving jobs from the guild and you can't go very far away from the town. The guild can also order you to stand by at certain times」

「Why are there no leaders in this town?」

「About 5 years ago we had one lead adventurer, however they got hurt and retired. At that point we no longer had a lead adventurer and since this town never really needed one, we never replaced them」

It seems like becoming a lead adventurer will increase the amount of ties and burdens you have, strength is also necessary of course, however a suspicious person cannot become a lead adventurer for the sake of the guild's reputation.

In that case it may be better to leave the lead adventurer seat vacant. The stupid rowdy adventurers may scatter around trying to get the lead adventurer seat otherwise.

「Being bound with the contract with low paying salary makes no one want to do it」

「The payroll is low?」

「Yea, it definitely isn't high」

Lead adventurer seems unpopular.

「That is why there aren't any big differences in strength between the adventurers here. No problems should occur with your current actions」

「I see, thank you for everything」

「You are very welcome」

Giving thanks to Lily we leave the guild behind.

After walking a bit further away from the guild Ayla opened her mouth.

「Master, someone is looking at us」

「I see, it's probably Ganford」

He probably wants to continue what happened inside, however we'll probably win if we fight.

However, I wonder how the guild treats conflicts between fellow adventurers, I should've asked Lily about it.

「Fights between fellow adventurers are not specifically prohibited in any way. However, I heard that if there is no legitimate reason then a harsh punishment will be placed」

She probably heard the conversation between Ayla and me, because Amy guessed what I was thinking immediately.

「Is Ganford's false accusations a legitimate reason?」

I ask Amy for confirmation.

「It is completely unfair. The fact that he reacted by backing away in the guild, he should also know that it is not a legitimate reason. That said, I believe he is going to ambush us instead」

「On the other hand, if we counterattack will it become a problem?」

「No, there is no problem with counterattacking when ambushed. The previous commotion inside the guild will also become insurance for our side」

In the meantime, since there is no problem with counterattacking, we decided to meet them head on. It would be a pain if they followed us and discovered where our inn is.

。

We head toward the east gate near our inn, and pass by as we head to a less populated area, after walking 5 minutes out of the gate we were surrounded by them.

「You've humiliated me. If I don't slaughter you, I won't be able to relax

properly」

Behind Ganford are the two people we saw at the guild. One seems to be a light warrior and the other is a magician. Both of their statuses are below Ganford.

The light warrior, it seems like it would be better to call him a rogue rather than a warrior, but the status says warrior.

The magician had the skill【Fire Magic】★ it seems like if they don't have【Sage in the making】then the separate attributes become skills.

「Is this okay? If something happens to us with this kind of timing, the ones that'll be suspected first are you guys」

Hearing my words the three guys hesitated. These guys really didn't think about anything. Guys like these are the reason that the reputation of adventurers are so low.

I continue to rebuke their actions.

「Furthermore, the guild will not do anything to us if we defeat you here, so we will not hesitate to fight you」

The light warrior and magician begin to argue with Ganford, I think I heard someone say 'we didn't hear about this' within the whispers

Of course we don't have to wait and listen to them bicker. I used eye contact to signal to Ayla and I launched the attack.

While I did talk about counterattacking with Amy, she took a second to

realize what was happening and drew her short bow, the target was the magician.

Our only long ranged member, Amy makes the magician her target in order to keep his magic in check.

Already coming into attack range Ayla and I slash at the light warrior and Ganford from behind.

The light warrior was wearing thin armor so one slash killed him, Ganford also fell but is still breathing.

The magician stares blankly at the arrow inside of his chest, at that moment a second arrow pierces his chest and he falls over like that.

I approached the still breathing Ganford and stabbed the sword into his back.

And with that my hand was trembling, this is the first time I have committed『Murder』in this world.

Ganford was going to kill me, so killing him is fine.

Thinking like that naturally makes me afraid of myself. I wonder if something has changed after I came to this world.

I wonder if it is also because it was the first time I felt the killing intent of another person that I decided to kill him.

Since I was being dazed and not reacting at all, Ayla approached me worriedly.

「Master, your complexion does not look very good, did you get hurt anywhere?」

Hearing that, Amy pulled out the medicinal herbs in a hurry.

「Are you okay? Would you rather have a potion?」

When I came to, I held both of them in each arm and stayed like that for a while.

And without a word the two gently return my embrace.

Chapter 19

After Yesterday's fiasco, we returned to our room and I fell asleep while being embraced by Ayla and Amy. Those two said nothing about what transpired yesterday, the following morning I was also greeted by silence.

"Good morning. Master, how are you feeling today?"

"Good morning. If you're not feeling well, would you like me to compound some medicine for you?"

It is possible such situations will happen in the future, but I don't want to get used to murder. I'm happy that these two are concerned about me. Thus, I don't intend to stay depressed forever. It is common in this world, to take another person's life. It was only natural for me to defend myself.

"I was only a little bit tired. As you can see, I'm fully rested now."

I embrace both of them, once more, holding them close I lightly kiss them. I'm safe, as long as we are together, I will be fine.

In the morning we return to the Adventurer's Guild, to inform them that we had killed Ganford in self-defense. The head guard asked a few simple questions, such as the reason, the time, and the location it took placed. Shortly after we were let go.

Although, the head guard asked a variety of questions, he didn't seem

to be too concern that a murder had taken place downtown.

The ranking of an Adventurer in this town is probably considered low priority, perhaps because, one never knows when an Adventurer will suddenly die.

Since we had finished reporting earlier than I had expected, we decided to have Amy teach me how to use the Magic that I learned yesterday.We exited the town in the opposite direction of the gate from where we had fought against Ganford.

This way if someone was following us, we would know.

I don't think we needed to be so cautious, though.

In front of me, there is a candle lit with fire.

And a bucket with water.

"I wonder, what is going to happen."

While looking at the flame, I noticed a red aura enveloping the candle's fire. The aura around the fire doesn't seem to be actual fire. I noticed that every time I concentrate an aura appears around the fire. When I focus my eyes, I can see an aura around the two girls. Ayla's aura appears flicking orange, while Amy's aura appears pale green.

"Is this supposed to be magic energy?"

"I think it is, although I can't see magic energy."

“Is that so?”

I point my right hand at the candle. What makes a Mage a magic user is the ability to control magic energy. Although, ability seems to dependent on the individual. I recall from the Anime and Manga I have seen, that the most important part to controlling magic is how one imagines the magic.

A blackish colored aura is drawn from my body and directed to the area around the candle. I slowly move the black aura away from my right hand. When the black aura comes into contact with the red aura it momentarily becomes a blackish aura, but then it all reverted back to red.

I make the aura sway back and forth like I imagined it.

Next I imagine the fire growing bigger. It only grew a little in size, it was about the same size as the aura I released from my hand.

I pour more of the black aura into the candle fire. In the next moment the fire on the candle has grown to about 2 meters in height.

“Kya!”

“Eh!?”

Ayla, is surprised and falls down. In a panic, I extract the aura from the fire, and the flame gradually returns to its former size.

“Was that possibly, caused by Master?”

Amy asks.

“Probably, I tried adding the aura we talked about earlier, to the fire. Sorry for surprising you.”

“No worries, but if you are already capable of this much, there is no need for the candle anymore.”

So, will I be able to use fire without anything there? It would be troublesome if I had to use a candle every time I wanted to use Fire Magic.

“In that case, do you know how to use fire without any aid?”

“You already know how to control the image of the fire right. Don’t you just use the same Image that was used to control the aura, and use it to convert your magic energy into Fire Magic?”

To control my magic energy like fire, you sure are saying something difficult.

“For now, why don’t you try out various things?”

“You’re right. This isn’t something that can be perfected in a day or two.”

After the first day, I understood that magic energy is necessary to use Magic. For instance, my magic energy acts a pipeline that connects to the candle, which I can then manipulate. In order to create fire where nothing exists, one must use magic energy as a replacement for the fire and then continually imagine it heating up.

It is the same for water. The method of control is up to imaging your magic energy changing into more water, flowing through that pipeline.

For things to go smoothly, you have to imagine the moisture gathering together. This method of imaging would be impossible for a person without knowledge about the concepts of science. Other Magicians probably use a different image for the use of magic.

In one day, I was able to control fire and water. Amy watches while looking surprised.

Ayla, doesn't seem to understand why it is amazing, her puzzled expression is cute.

****

Magic List MP 202/315

Fire Magic ★

Water Magic ★

****

"Well, it doesn't seems to be at a level where it can be used in battle."

The fire is at the level of a candle's flame, the water is at the level of a cup of water, it isn't enough.

If I try to put any more magic into it, it begins to burst out and explode.

Not to mention the range is no good either.

And it also fizzes out after merely 5m.

"Most Magicians only focus on just one type of Magic. Court Magicians and other greater Magicians, have multiple attributes, it seems."

"Yeah, in front of other people you should not use magic."

"Is that so, normally one would inform the Party they join that they can use magic. A swordsman should play the role of a swordsman. And since you're a swordsman you should hide the fact that you can use Magic."

"I understand, I won't rely on my Magic."

If I keep practicing, someday it will be suitable for battles. I remember the Magician from Ganford's Party also had the Skill【Fire Magic ★】. Perhaps, it can be used for combat after all.

Now then, I have learned how to use Magic, Ayla has also trained Ruby in various types of combat practice.

When Ayla blows her whistle, Ruby goes into battle mode.

It seems Ruby method of attacking, is flinging a portion of its body at the target.

It doesn't have a direct method of attacking, its method is to wear the opponent down with its sticky mucus. That is about all it is capable of doing.

But every time Ruby flings its mucus, it grows smaller in size, this method of attacking has a high consumption rate.

Ruby can eat anything.

It can eat Monsters, corpses and people, not to mention even metal.

"It really can eat just about anything."

For Ruby's lunch, to make up for its lost energy, I gave it the poisonous plants I've gathered.

Amy was going to hand me some poison recovery Potion, however I said it wasn't necessary, and put it back into the leather bag.

Something such as poison is indeed unpleasant, but Ayla properly listens to my request and there was no problem.

Now then, it is time I check Ruby's【Storage ★★】and confirm any changes.

In my opinion, this is a very helpful Skill to an Adventurer.

"Ayla, I have one more thing I need Ruby to do."

"Alright, what is it?"

“I want to store this Potion in Ruby’s body.”

“Storage?”

“Un, Ruby has a Skill, you see.”

“I understand.”

Ayla talks to Ruby.

To me, having a【Monster Tamer】such as Ayla is helpful. If I had the Skill, perhaps I could communicate with Ruby also.

“It said that it is alright with, storing things inside its stomach.”

“Can things be freely retrieved?”

“Yes, it seems.”

I hand over the Potion to Ruby.

Ruby receives the Potion.

To a certain extent, I put my hand that was holding the Potion into Ruby’s body. The Potion effortlessly when in.

“I want to try retrieving the Potion from Ruby.”

“Yes.”

Ayla and Ruby, exchange glances and then Ruby, spit out the Potion.

The potion that was ejected out, may be wet but it is still intact.

“Exactly how deep is its stomach?”

“It seems as if its stomach is endless.”

“Is it painful?”

“It is not painful at all. Although, it has consumed 5 whole Goblins nothing has happened. ”

Afterwards, Ayla tried out various things. It seems it is possible to store variety amounts of different items. The capacity seems fairly large.

There doesn’t seem to be any problems with Ruby after storing various things inside. Ruby can comprehend what is inside its stomach, and can knowingly retrieve it.

Also, it is able to separate Items that are stored, from things that are its meal. From now on, I can keep a reserve Potions and Herbs.

Furthermore, Ruby will consider the Storage as a separate part of its body, it must be thinking about things as well.

“Sure is a convenient Item Box ability.”

“Yes, similar to an Adventurer’s Bag.”

Is that how it appears? Well, an Adventurer’s Bag is something similar, however it seems Merchants and Nobles are against it, though.

Of course, mostly Adventurers use the bag, but it is very expensive.

Supposedly, an Alchemist can create the bag, but Amy has yet to create one.

“In the first place, she doesn’t have the materials. The method to create an Adventurer’s Bag is among one of the Alchemy Guild’s most guarded secrets.”

“I see, now I’m even more grateful that Ruby is with us.”

“Is that so, as of now there are hardly any Monsters nearby. Now would be a good time to hunt some Monsters.”

Ayla and Ruby, seem excited.

Ruby is purring in Ayla’s arms.

Although, there are no Monsters around to greet, nonetheless, it was a fun day.

Chapter 20

A few days have past since I have learned to use Magic. I have started to feel a little better. There has been an increase in the number of Monster subjugation request downtown.

Today I'm searching for a Guild request, and as usual I process my jobs via the receptionist Lily.

「Hibiki, can you wait a moment?」

「Is it about a good job request?」

「Well you see, um, I don't think it will be too difficult.」

Lily show us a job request, it was about investigating the forest.

There is information from several eye-witnesses that claim to have spotted an unusual Monster in the forest near town.

The request is asking for someone to investigate these claims.

I decide to take the request since coincidentally we were planning to go into the forest to hunt Monsters.

「But, isn't it impossible to investigate the whole forest with only a few people?」

「Yes, that is why I have also asked other Parties to accept the request.

Besides your Party, there are perhaps five to six other Parties participating.」

The area to the east of the forest is known as the『Demon's Wilderness』.

The eastern part of the forest is the boundary that separate human territory from the Monsters. The Monsters that live in the『Demon's Wilderness』are said to be tougher and more ferocious. Adventurers who can handle the『Demon's Wilderness』are considered top class.

In addition, nearby the『Demon's Wilderness』there exists a town called Welburg, it is known for being a town for Adventurers.

The request states that the participants must submit their report of the investigation to the Guild in Welburg, and if possible, subjugate the Monster.

If it becomes necessary I must consider whether or not I will participate in the subjugating the Monster.

「Hibiki, if you choose not to participate in the subjugation part, you can use that opportunity to return back here.」

「Is it possible to receive the reward over there instead?」

「It should be okay, but do you not plan on returning back here?」

Lily appears worried.

「I do not, I plan on traveling to the Adventurer's town. I thought it would be a better place to make more of a profit.」

This time the investigation request and subjugating the Monster have separate a reward. So, if I want more of a reward I will have to help with the Monster subjugation.

「There aren't as many variety of items available here in Bureto. And even if there was, I don't think I have enough money.」

「I see, well it has been fun having you here.」

The team that is being sent to Welburg is scheduled to leave in two days. Those who are participating will gather in the morning at the scheduled time. Tomorrow I plan on making preparation for our departure the day after.

For the time being at the Inn I consult with Amy as to which Items should be sold.

「With the material on hand, what can be made?」

In the Inn, I unpacked my bag, and asked Amy for her input.

「Let's see, I could make a few Accessories. Perhaps, I could make some Magic Potions for us to use.」

「Accessories? I would like some Accessories, what type can you make?」

「By using Sharp Fang as a base material I can make an Accessory that while equipped can make a person move faster.」

I see, Agility-Up.

「With the Demon Ore I can make a ring that can slightly recover fatigue.」

Does it recover physical stamina or does it recover fatigue as a Status Ailment?

A Demon Ore can sometimes be found after defeating a Monster. At the Adventurer's Guild it is a well-known Item, but it is not worth much. The Item is said to be used by Alchemists as material.

「For now make as many as you can.」

「Yes, but first can you tell me the Demon Ore Attribute?」

「Attribute?」

「That's right, because now that you can use Magic, I can add an Attribute onto the material.」

While commenting Amy hands one to me.

「First should I try putting my Magic Energy into the Demon Ore?」

「It is worth a try, it is said that the quality of a Demon Ore depends on the quantity and attribute of the Magic Energy inside.」

「Then is Fire Attribute good, it seems more useful than Water Attribute.」

「That's not right, a ring with Water Attribute can be used as a source for water, but the problem is when the Magic Energy runs out it can't be used anymore.」

「Although it is convenient it is a consumable item, huh?」

「No that is incorrect, a user of Water Magic can resupply the ring with Magic Energy.」

It seems that the main source of income for a Magician, who is not an Adventurer, comes from transferring Magic Energy into Demon Ores or other precious gems.

Hiring a renowned Magic User to supplies Magic Energy is unexpectedly expensive. These exclusive Magic Energy powered Accessories must be something mostly nobles have equipped for self-protection.

「By the way, a ring with 100% Fire Attribute, is it able to use Fire

Magic?」

「Yes, the Magic that a Magician includes can be used until it runs out of Magic Energy. I also think that there will be a slight resistance to Fire Magic.」

「Can I choose the type of magic instilled, such as an offensive or defensive?」

「It should be alright either way, as long as the Demon Ore and Accessory is high quality. Everything dependents on the amount of Magic Energy amassed in the Demon Ore, anyways.」

It seems that the quality of the Demon Ore itself is neither good nor bad.

「Then will you be alright with, 2 infused with Fire Magic Energy and 1 infused with Water Magic Energy?」

「What are your plan for the Fire Magic, is going to be offensive or defensive?」

「For Ayla Fire Magic Resistance ring, and for Amy an offensive Fire Magic Attack ring. For me a Water ring, since I will be able to bring forth more water.」

Because I can control my Magic Energy it will be my role to support those two. The Fire Magic Resistance ring will be the most useful to Ayla since she fights in the front lines. And thus giving Amy, who is protecting

the rear, a Fire Magic Attack ring as a trump card it will balance out the Party's battle formation.

After I had finished instilling my Magic Energy, Amy creates

『Water Ring of Honor +4』

『 Fireproof Ring +4』

『Fire Ring of Honor +4』

It was very difficult to control the transferring of my Magic Energy into the Demon Ore. It felt as if there was no limit to how much I could transfer. I tried to stop at about 100 MP per Demon Ore. After it was over my Magic Energy was mostly depleted.

With the Sharp Fang as the based material『Swift Attack Earrings +4』 were created. I kept 3 pairs for us to equip, the remaining pairs were sold for funds.

The shopkeeper kept repeating, "this is good", and suggested that if I have any more I should return back here to sell.

There must be something like a merchant skill, that can appraise the "+4" of the equipment, perhaps that is why I got an appropriate selling price.

After receive more funds, I thought about upgrading our equipment. But Ayla rejected the idea, saying that it is too early to upgrade our equipment and that we first need more experience. So, I bought a few arrows for the short bow and we left the shop.

I store our food and equipment that we had just bought inside Ruby. It took a while to store everything away because I had to explain to it, what every item was.

However it was worthwhile, Ruby was able to understand what everything was. I let it eat a Demon ore as a reward because it wanted to try some.

「I've been told that the Demon Ore is the solid form of a Monster's Magic Energy. And that a Slime Monster is a lump of Magic Energy, perhaps that is the source of its life-force.」

「Will my Magic Energy also work?」

「I do not know. The Magic Energy of a human and the Magic Energy of a Monster are generally different. But perhaps it may be alright?」

I try putting my Magic Energy into the Demon Ore Ruby has yet to eat.

「Ruby spit it back out if anything goes wrong.」

I feed Ruby the Demon Ore after I knew it understood.

I determined that there is no problem after observing Ruby digesting the Demon Ore little by little.

「Ruby says that the Demon Ore was delicious.」

While petting Ruby Ayla interprets for it.

「If a Slime amass more Magic Energy will it become stronger?」

「Yes based on the place where the Slime goes to breed, at the Fountain of Springs. That probably means a Slime is a type of Monster that can store up Magic Energy.」

「Normally people wouldn't notice because Slime tend to quickly become food for other Monsters.」

「Well, there is a fairy tale from a picture book that depicts a Gigantic Slime conquering a Castle.」

「I wonder when we will have an amazing Ruby like that?」

「Because Ruby can adjust its size, it is alright for it to get bigger.」

「This guy sure is convenient.」

I also pet Ruby. I praise it for eating the Demon Ore, it jiggles, it seems happy.

Chapter 21

In the morning, of the next day, we went to the Adventurer's Guild. As soon as we entered Lily called us over to the receptionist's desk.

「Welcome. You sure are lightly packed. It normally takes about a week to get to Welburg, will you be alright?」

「Yea, Amy has an Adventurer's Bag, our supplies are stored there.」

Yesterday at the Inn, the three of us decide on keeping the Slime's, Adventurer's Bag like ability, a secret. The alibi that we had agreed upon was that Amy had obtained an Adventurer's Bag.

「Isn't an Adventurer's Bag supposed to be very expensive? It must've been quite a good purchase.」

「Ah, it is second-hand and somewhat worn-out, but because of that we were able to buy it for cheap. Although, we still do have several payments to make.」

My acting was unnatural, I tried shrugging my shoulders and making a pose.

Lily whom is watching me, smiles.

「Perhaps, did you buy the Adventurer's Bag for this excursion? Well, it certainly would be helpful.」

「Ah, don't you think that on the previous escort request, we obtained a large amount of materials? Who knows what will happen this time.」

「I see, an excellent Adventurer has all sorts of worries.」

Lily smiles as she says this.

「Leaving that matter aside, have the other parties arrived?」

「Your party is the second to arrive. Can you wait in the back room? Two more parties will be arriving later.」

「Understood.」

We were guided to the Guild's waiting room, inside we saw four people of the same party. Aside from a Swordsman, there is a Magician and Shinto Priest. The party is balanced and they all have high Levels.

The Swordsman is a young man wearing leather armor. He seems to be a southpaw fighter who uses a buckler in his right hand.

The other member, is an older man who is covered head to toe in full-

plated armor and equipped with a large shield. He gives off the feeling of being a reliable person.

The Magician is a feminine looking woman wearing a black robe. I check her Status, it says she is 16 years old. It appears that she is a Fire Magic user.

The final person, the Shinto Priest, is also a woman. She is 18 years old. Are the clothes she is wearing, perhaps, the church attire of this world? On Earth a Sister's attire is more of a simple color. The attire she is wearing is an eye-catching red.

The one-handed sword user approaches us with a friendly simile.

「It is a pleasure to meet you, Hibiki the『Annihilator』, right?」

「Annihilator?」

「Huh, am I mistaken? I've been looking forward to this request because I wanted to meet you.」

「That's not it, although it is true that my name is Hibiki, but what's up with the annihilation part?」

「It is your nickname around here, rumor has it that you annihilated all the Monsters in the neighboring forest.」

After he told me, I was shocked. When was I founded out?

「Well, it seems that ever since your party started to participate, coincidentally the number of Monsters has decreased. And now everyone has taken an interest in you.」

We didn't notice there was a rumor about us going around, even though it is at the level of just persistent gossip. There is no conclusive evidences, yet.

「The rumors are definitely not truth. I would also be troubled if there are no Monsters around.」

「If you say so, but this town's Guild will still consider you the『Annihilator』, as to whether or not it's true, I don't know.」

「Although, you may already know about us, we'll introduce ourselves anyways. I'm Hibiki, my Party Members are Ayla and Amy.」

「Ah, nice to meet you.」

「Likewise.」

Ayla and Amy introduce themselves, the one-handed sword user greets them with a polite smile.

「It is a pleasure to meet you too, I am Hylux, a Swordsman, everyone calls me Lux. That old man is Gary. The person spacing out over there is Kuesu, she is a Magician. And lastly that is Baara, she's a Shinto Priest.」

The three that were introduced greet us with a nod.

Gary walks over to Lux, like a complaining old man, he asks about us.

「Nice to meet you,『Annihilator-san』, I've heard that you're strong.」

「Nice to meet you too, Gary-san. I'm nothing special, I'm just your average newbie.」

「No need to be humble, I'm expecting great things from you.」

Gary gives a broad simile. It seems, Ayla and the others are also chatting with everyone.

「You girls must be members of the『Annihilator's』Party. Are you also strong? Anyways, it is a pleasure to meet you all.」

「No, no I'm nothing great.」

「Th, there's nothing special about me either.」

The two being watched by Gary, shy away.

「Gary, do not bully the young girls.」

Baara who couldn't bear watching the scene anymore interrupted him.

「Don’t scare them, when you’re trying to talk to them.」

「Your face is scary, even if you’re not trying to be, you’re troubling them.」

Baara while talking to Ayla and the others, gave them a gentle smile.

「Sorry, his face is scary but he isn’t a bad person.」

「It’s okay. I’m fine, but Amy how are you feeling?」

「I’m okay now, sorry Gary, I was a little afraid of you.」

「No worries, my face has always been scary.」

Thanks to Baara, those two seem to be getting along with Lux’s Party Members. Unintentionally, I began to worry about, Kuesu, the person who is sitting on the chair doing nothing.

This is my second time encountering another Magician. The first Magician I meet was my enemy and it ended with a hostile engagement.

I should try asking about Magicians.

「She hasn’t said anything this entire time, is there a reason why?」

「Ah, that is her usual self. She isn't asleep or anything, if someone asks her something she will respond.」

「Hmm, well I'll try talking to her then.」

「By all means you welcome to if you don't have a problem talking to a strange Magician.」

「Strange?」

「Yea, normally one wouldn't try to start a conversation with an unfamiliar Magician.」

Oh, and yet again I'm doing something unusual. Well, I can't turn back now.

「... an eccentric Magician, what sort of stereotype should I expect?」

Based on the knowledge of my former world, in manga, Magicians are a bunch of stubborn weirdos.

「Aha, ha, your right. A Magician that isn't strange is strange in itself. 」

I can't stop laughing, Lux is also giggling. Kuesu takes a glance at us but doesn't saying anything.

「It is a pleasure to meet you, I'm Hibiki. Kuesu, how are you doing? Are

you okay with talking to me?」

Kuesu, looks towards me.

「Are you the『Annihilator』? You don't look strong.」

「Ah, that is what they call me, but I really don't know why.」

「Is that so. Why do you carry a sword?」

「Well, I am a swordsman, you know.」

「Swordsman? Ah, a Magic Swordsman, right.」

「No, just an ordinary Swordsman.」

I was startled by Kuesu's questioning, however, try to not let it show on my face. I answer her questions as vaguely as I can.

「In that case you may not have noticed it yet. There is a vast amount of Magic Energy inside you.」

「Magic Energy?」

I listen to her, and try to act surprised. A few days ago when I was trying to learn magic, I saw the Aura of both Ayla and Amy.

I guess that means my Aura is also showing, and Kuesu can see it.

「Yes, Your Magic Energy is large. Come with me right now to register at the Magician's Guild.」

「That sounds troublesome.」

If she is serious, then I don't want to go. An unsociable place such as the Magician's Guild is place I don't want to join.

I asked Ayla, Amy, and Lily about the Magician's Guild. I heard that in order to change one's Job Class to Magician it requires that the person is selected by the Magician's Guild. And among those people the Magician's Guild only chooses a few of them.

Although, the Magician's Guild is a big organization, Ayla didn't know much about them.

Because I know Amy who is an Alchemist, I have somewhat learned about magic, and thus I already knew I had amazing potential as a Magician.

I was informed by Lily about Magicians that become Adventurers. She said they tend to not stay long with a single Party.

Anyways, it isn't good for me to think too much about this topic, it seem pointless.

「I do want to learn magic, but I like my current lifestyle, I don't want to

join the Magician's Guild.」

「So, as expected you hate the Magician's Guild.」

「I wouldn't go as far as saying I hate it. Kuesu, if it is possible during this mission can you teach me some magic?」

Even if I fail, at least it could turn into a funny story, so it is worth a try.

「Sure why not, from here to Welburg and back is about 2 weeks. During that time, I will teach you as much as possible.」

「Is that alright, I requested quite an absurd favor.」

「I don't mind, presently, isn't your Magic Energy apart of our team's resources? So why shouldn't I help you learn to utilize it.」

Normally, isn't a Magician's craft supposed to be a hidden secret that is passed down between family members, or clans.

「Good for you Kuesu, you acquired a pupil.」

Lux overheard our conversation. He seems overjoyed that Kuesu had gotten along with someone else.

「Hibiki, you sure are lucky. You see, Kuesu just happens to be looking for a disciple.」

「She was searching for a disciple? Sorry but, I have no intention of become a Magician.」

「Ah, don't worry about it. All you need to do is be approved by the Magician's Guild.」

「A certification?」

「Yes, all you need to do is register at the Magician Guilds, there is no need to inherit anything from Kuesu.」

「I'm currently a Grade – 2 Magician.」

「Grade – 2?」

「Hey, Kuesu. Hibiki doesn't know anything, I'll leave the explanation to you.」

「Yea, I'm ignorant about Magicians.」

「Grade is the rank of a Magician, this includes the Magicians that are not members of the Magician's Guild.」

「Kuesu, what does it mean to be a Grade – 2 Magician?」

「A Grade – 2, is one rank down from Grade – 1. Grade – 5 and below

are for Magicians in-training.」

「I don't understand what's a Grade – 5?」

「All Magicians begin as a Grade – 6. The highest rank is Grade – 1. A Grade – 1 Magician is a person who has made some sort of achievement, but at best it is just an honorary position.」

「A Grade – 5 Magician is capable of utilizing magic for battle. No need to worry『Annihilator』, your Magic Energy is already at Grade – 5.」

「I prefer to be addressed as Hibiki. Do I only have to register with the Guild?」(Hibiki)

「Can it wait until we return from Welburg? Right now it would be impossible for me to register with the Magician's Guild in this town.」(Kuesu)

「You're right, with incomplete magic it is dangerous.」(Gray)

I didn't lose anything. It was Kuesu who willing approached me about teaching me magic. This situation is too convenient.

「Accept my invitation to join the Magician's Guild, then I'll stop pestering you. 」(Kuesu)

「Everything will be fine, the Magician's Guild is quite introverted, they have their principles. The members are free to come and go as they

please, the Guild won't chase you down if you decide to quit.」(Gray)

「Is that so, will they request anything from me?」(Hibiki

「Nothing in particular. Maybe your body.」(Kuesu)

Doesn't that sound erotic? Well, Kuesu is a beauty, it makes those spoken words seem highly dangerous.

Everyone in Lux's Party appears to be good-looking. Although, Gary has a scary expression he still has a handsome face.

「I understand, I'll be in your care Shishou.」(Hibiki)

「Yes, please to meet you too, pupil number 1-san.」(Kuesu)

Chapter 22

After I confirmed that my Shisho (temporary) would teach me magic, the remaining two parties enter the room. Lily and another Guild employee also enters the room. Their role is to witness and record everything that transpires here.

「I am Furon, the two behind me are Lev and Rye」

The third group is a three man Party, they are all Swordsmen. Compared to Lux's group, their Levels are slightly lower. Furon is human, the two behind him are Beastmen.

「I'm Feyru. The girl is Copper, the other one is Aru, and the last one is Nico.」

The fourth group is a Party of all women. The leader Feyru is a very high Level Magic Swordsman.The other three members are a Monster Tamer, a Gladiator, and a Miko. Their Levels are low, though.

Their party contains two Job Classes that I don't know. It only shows the name of their Job Class. I'll ask Lux's group about it. Perhaps, it is common for Adventurers to hide their Job Class. I can completely understand, I should be careful to not to reveal anything.

「Well now, what route are we taking?」

Furon begins to speak. The investigation method doesn't change, it is decided that we will defeat the Monsters. In other words, they want all the rewards.

「Everyday all parties will meet and share information. Is that okay?」

Furon checks with Feyru, she replies. Are things really okay this way?

「Well this is the way things are. As you can see a Swordsman is taking the lead. If it were a Magician is would be even blander. Would you prefer a warm reception?」

「No joke, this is how a Party operates. Do you not divide the reward among yourselves?」

Feyru's Party has the ideal number of members. It is straightforward, but is it really strategically?

「『Tri-Sword』 and 『Shakunetsu』 , calm down.」

Lux reprimands them. Tri-Sword is the nickname of Furon Party, and Shakunetsu is the nickname of Feyru's Party.

Our Party is the only group who is not acquaintanced with the others.

「This is none of your business『Fierce Blade』. Gives us your share and we'll stop.」

「No way. That is no negotiation. Do you guys want to continue this pointless talk forever?」

「Then what should be done?『Tri-Swords』if I have to keep listening to your foolish bickering then I'd rather quit this mission.」

Lux drops a bombshell, and then smiles.

「『Annihilator』do you also agree? Does everyone understand? What do you think Hibiki?」

「I feel the same way.」

Should I declare that I can't work with idiots?

It can't be helped, I should give some constructive criticism.

「What was written in the eyewitness reports? For the time being, why don't we confirm what types of Monsters have appeared?」

We were not informed of what was written in the report. I was assuming Lily and them were going to brief us on the day of the departure.

The faces of the two who were arguing seems surprised. Are they really that foolish?

「Lily-san, may I take a look at the eyewitness report?」

「Yes, please wait a moment.」

Lily takes out several pieces of paper, and hands them to me.

「There are Monsters listed here that I don't know, Lux can you tell me about them?」

「Ah, of course. I see, there are a lot of insect type Monsters.」

The insert type Monsters are known for their ability to propagate and multiply quickly, they can devastate the ecosystem. The eyewitnesses reported seeing insect type Monsters, that must be the reason why the investigation team is being mobilized so soon.

Based on the report, the Monsters that have been sighted is a swarm of: Shooter Bee, Armored Mantis, Poison Boa, and Fragrance Ant.

They had reported Monsters not native to this area.

「What are these species of Monsters doing here?」

I finally hear Furon ask a question about the mission.

「Our task is to find the reason.」

Furon's face turns red, he realizes that he was the only person here who wasn't aware.

「Since there will be a large number of Monsters, I propose that we divide into groups of two parties.」

Lux's Party nods in agreement with my plan, but the rest are dissatisfied.

I guess I can't get away with dictating our team's plans. Must I compromise?

「How about this, Lux and I will team up, and you are all free to do as you please. The reward will be divided based on how many monster each individual Party has defeated, or based on how much work they accomplished.」

Those two idiots should be okay with these terms.

Their goal is to earn more rewards, allowing them to take independent action should satisfy them. It is a simple trick but effective.

Normally partnering up with another Party, and then dividing the reward would still be profitable. But the problem is they want to maximize their profits and monopolize the reward.

「Yea, that's good.」

「Yea, no problem.」

「Well, what are you waiting for, let's go.」

At last the members of the investigation team is departing.

Two days have passed since we had left town. So far we had only encountered the Monsters that are native to this area. We have yet to encounter any of the Monsters from the eyewitness reports.

Speaking of results, I have been practicing magic while looking for Monster companions to befriend.

I had explained that Ayla is a beginner Monster Tamer, and if possible, she wanted to try recruiting any Monsters we encounter. Not all the monsters we meet were recruitable, however, the current amount of Monsters that Ayla has befriended numbers at 10.

As for the Monsters that she has recruited, they are: 2 Shooter Bees, 3 Fragrance Ants, 1 Paralyzer Spider + 1 Armored Mantis, and 2 Sharp Wolves.

The Armored Mantis is especially useful in combat. While the Shooter Bee and Sharp Wolf is useful for scouting.

After the first magic practice I became able to sense the flow of Magic Energy. I decide to pretend that I was able to see Magic Energy thanks to Kuesu's instructions.

The transparent crystal ball Kuesu presents allows one to see the various colors of Magic Energy.

「The color is a dull gray.」

「Is it no good?」

「That isn't true, you're a Double.」

The crystal ball has analyzes my Magic Energy, and had determined that this is my color. When two or more attributes overlap the color becomes mixed. And thus I don't know if my magic affinity is any good or not.

「Aren't you lucky Ayla-san, Hibiki is a "Double", you sure do have a good Party.」

「Ah, that's too early to say, I haven't even properly learned any magic yet.」

My magic attribute is then confirmed. I have affinity for Fire and Water. Well that certainly coincides with the magic I have already acquired.

While walking, I am tasked with operating the flames of our lamps and controlling the water in our canteens. My training was very tiring. It would've been dangerous if it weren't for Ayla's Monsters scouting ahead.

Kuesu is unexpectedly Spartan.

Three days after we had left town an incident occurred.

Halfway to the location of the Adventurer's town, in the middle of the forest, we encounter the main force that belongs to the swarm of insect Monsters. Several types of insects seem to be working together, some are breeding while the others are collecting food. At a blistering pace; they hunt their prey, and lay their eggs. This cycle of incubation repeats, continuing over and over again.

A short distance away and atop the hill, the scene of Monsters overflowing from a crevice in the forest can be seen.

「What is this, that is an unbelievable number of enemies.」

「This is more serious than I thought.」

「This is bad, really bad, they're heading for Bureto. 」

For a swarm of this magnitude, how was it overlooked? For now we need to go to the Adventurer's town and inform them of the swarm of Monsters heading for the town of Bureto.

「Hey, there is no time, we have to hurry and inform everyone.」

It took us three days to get here, it we hurry it would take at least two days to reach the town of Welburg.

With our numbers our marching speed will be considerably slower.

It can't be helped, we need to take proper measures to insure our safety.

「Let's return.」

Furon of Tri-Sword announces.

「I'll be honest, the odds are unreasonable. We would lose half our numbers before we reach the town of Welburg.」

That is certainly true for the Tri-Swords. All their member are swordsmen, they have no healer. They wouldn't be able to sustain the onslaught. It is the same for my Party, although, we do have Ruby.

Ruby can freely pass us, potions and herbs, during battle.

In addition, my Party has acquired more Monster companions. If my Party members are in danger they would immediately defend us.

But unlike us, only Tri-Sword has the mobility to quickly traverse.

「Furon can I depend on you?」

Lux confirms with Furon. Furon is a skilled Adventurer, he knows his limits. There is no need to apologize for quitting.

「Ah, don’t worry about us, if things get dicey we’ll run away.」

Adventurers prioritize their own live, over the mission, unlike knights who have sworn an oath to their country.

The motto, among Adventurers is that oneself is the most important. While some Adventurers may choose to become Knights, the opposite also does occur.

This motto doesn’t change even in such a situation such as one’s town is being attacked.

「I don’t want the town to disappear, please do what you can.」

Furon walks away without answering, he merely waving his hand, while leaving Lux flustered.

I went to check on how Lux was doing.

「What are our order, Sir?」

「It is impossible to engage such a large force from the front.」

「As it stands, there is no one here capable of resisting those numbers.」

Feryu has a surprised expression, after she overhear our conversation.

「Are you guys going to pick a fight with that swarm?」

Lux shrugs his shoulder. His expression would've made a great painting.

「For the time being, we need to gather information. 」

「This is no joke!! If we are founded, we are finished.」

「I understand. We won't engage them, and I won't ask for anything unreasonable.」

I took the chance to scan our surrounding, as the two argue.

I take notice of the types of Monsters in the area. It seems that they had not only preyed upon other Monsters, but had also committed acts of cannibalism on their own species.

「Lux, is it normal for Monsters to prey on each other in such a manner?」

「Eh? No, such things normally do not happen. Monsters do not attack each other unless it had encroached into another's territory. For example, Shooter Bee merely circles around its nest, and doesn't like to leave it.」

「So why is it they have gathered, and are now preying on one another?」

「It can't be... impossible, a Brain Insect!!」

「Brain Insect?」

「When a Demon amasses a large quantity of Monsters there needs to be a leader to control those Monsters. In this situation that would a "Brain Insect".」

Demon? An existence with the ability to control the Monsters.

The Brain Insect is being used to bring together the "Unified Monsters", and then a Demon is using it as a relay point to transmit orders to the swarm, or horde.

Instead of directly command the swarm, the Demon appoints a Monster leader that can act as its proxy to direct the "Unified Monsters".

「And that is how it is possible to manage such a large quantity of Monsters.」

「Perhaps, that is the case.」

「So, this Demon is the one who is manipulating the swarm.」

Lux faces us, and grumbles.

「Maybe, the『Maou』is reviving?」

It's seems that a Maou exists in this world. Lux believes that everything is too well organized to be a coincidence. The Maou is the ruler of the Demons, its revival calls forth the unification of Monsters. As for whether or not it is the former Maou that is reviving is uncertain.

A demon that breaks the seal can evolve into the Maou.

I'm told, that if the Maou is reviving the church will send an oracle to search for a Hero. Two influential Shinto Priest will be given the right to appoint a Hero. If the person is a true Hero, they will be given a『Divine Protection』.

Because a Shinto Priest has the right to appoint a Hero, they are treated well. The Church officials do not like it and are constantly trying to sabotage one another.

「If you have any Monster companions it is best not to let them get close to the swarm.」

If we encounter the minions it will be alright, but if it is the leader we won't be able to run away.

「... that's right, we need to stop investigating and head for Welburg already.」

「As I have been saying since the beginning, we need to escape!」

The leaders of each Party agreed to take a detour in order to avoid the Monsters. We head off towards Welburg.

Chapter 23

The number of Monsters we encountered increased after meeting the swarm of Monsters. It was only a little bit further until we reached Welberg, but we were founded before we could get there. By the time we had noticed, 20 Monsters had already surrounded us.

「Kuesu, concentrate your attacks onto the three upfront.」

「Understood.」

「Gary can I leave my left to you?」

「Ou, leave it to me.」

「Baara, support with Recovery Magic.」

「Yes.」

Lux's Party quickly organizes for battle. They stop the advancing vanguard of Monsters with magic, and then their shield successfully defends their left flank. To effectively support the Party, Baara moves toward the center of the formation and readys her incantations.

「Shakunetsu, protect the rear.」

「We'll try.」

Feyru replies, although she is the most exhausted. Only Aru and Feyru are still capable of fighting, the other two members can barely walk.

Lux orders the two to move over toward Baara, while maintaining command he fights against three Armored Mantis.

「Hibiki, may I leave the right flank to your Party?」

Lux entrusted the side with the most Monsters to us. He doesn't see us as his sacrificial pawns, instead he believes in our abilities. Although the few Armored Mantis that Lux is engaging is the strongest Monster I have encountered in the forest.

「Yea, we've defeated all the Monsters on the right side.」

My Party had lost several of our Monster companions. The ones that had survived are: Ruby, 2 Sharp Wolf, and 1 Mantis. There are 8 Fragrance Ants on the ride side. Just as its name implies, they are capable of releasing spores that bewitch its opponent. It isn't something to be challenge alone.

「Ayla stay close, Amy I'm counting on your support.」

「I'll be careful.」

「Understood. Also my ring ran out of Magic Energy.」

「That can't be helped, you'll have to do without it.」

During these past several days, we had over used our trump card. The four fire rings we're equipped with allows us to use Fire Magic.

Lux and Feyru had also used their reserved Items. Lux's reserved Magic Potion can completely recovers the user's HP. The effects are comparable to Amy's Recovery Potion +4. Feyru's reserved weapon, a Magic Sword, allows the user to infuse Magic Energy into the sword to raise its sharpness. Feyru doesn't possess the Skill but the sword has Fire Attribute.

Ayla and the Sharp Wolf engage the Ant. The Ant is unable to keep up with their speed.

「Go flames! Be careful everyone!」

Amy shoots a mass of fire directed towards the Ant. The ring is only capable of a simple attacks such as a mass of fire.

「Yoshi~, over here.」

At times, I can control the flow of Magic Energy. Several times before, I had manipulated the power of flames produced by the ring. The Magic Energy is originally mine so perhaps that's why I can control it. Anyways,

it is useful.

I take control of the flames Amy produced and shape them into four flame spears. I aim and shoot them at the location furthest from Ayla.

「Fire!!」

The four spears of fire pierce the Ant and burns it to death from the inside.

I wanted to use eight spears of fire but four was the best for eliminating the spores created by the Fragrance Ant.

The Fragrance Ant's spores will attract and draw forth other Monsters if not eliminated, so I made sure to get rid of it. A chance to breath came once the remaining Monsters were defeated.

However, nearby more Ants are approaching.

With great speed an Ant presses it fangs at me. I was unprepared and thus unable to avoid the attack. At that time everything turned bright red.

「...Ruby you saved me.」

Ruby had engulfed the Fragrance Ant. It used its body to shield me from the Ant. After Ruby had gradually returned to its original size it purred and jiggled happily. That is when we knew it was safe. Later, I'll give it a Demon Stone.

Now, there are only three Ants remaining.

Somehow, it seems that the spores were suppressed by Ruby. If I can immobilize them I can have Ruby consume them just like before.

While I was searching for nearby allies, from behind, I hear a woman scream.

「Nico?! Are you safe??」

A Party Member of Shakunetsu a Shrine Maiden name Nico had fallen. A dark red wound can be seen on her stomach. She was shot from a distance by a Shooter Bee. The Shooter Bee is capable of launching long range attacks that is both powerful and venomous. Nico took a Shooter Bee's stinger to the stomach. Feyru tried to reach her but is blocked by two other Shooter Bees.

「Baara, I'll leave it to you!」

With merely a glance Lux gives Baara perfect instructions. Baara begins her Recovery Magic.

However the Shooter Bee that assaulted Nico had prepared to attack her again. With the purpose of distracting the Shooter Bee, a rushed fire spell is shot but it had no power behind it.

「Waa-ah!!」

A critical side sweeping slash connects with the Shooter Bee's torso causing it to stagger, however it wasn't a deathblow. Baara turns pale when she noticed the Bee had switched its target to her. The Bee buzzes around her, as if taunting her. It had realized that Baara is the real threat and had prioritized her as its main target.

The next moment, the Bee is attacked by an Armored Mantis. The Shooter Bee's left wing is chopped off by the Mantis' sickle, and its head is bitten, dealing a fatal blow to the bee.

This Armored Mantis is one of Amy's tamed Monster. Compared to a normal mantis its body is slightly smaller. Its right sickle is somewhat bigger and a little distorted than its left.

While looking for the next opponent, I heard a voice from the rear.

「This can't be, I don't have enough Magic Energy!?」

When I turn around Baara is trying to give treatment to Nico. Apparently, her Recovery Magic alone is insufficient. The detoxification and treatment are done, but she is too exhausted to completely heal Nico. I signal to Ayla, and entrust the rest of the battle to her. The reminding enemy numbers three Fragrance Ants, it shouldn't be no problem for her.

「Can you use my Magic Energy?」

I still have some stored Magic Energy in my magic ring. I offer to assist Baara.

「I don’t know if I can use Recovery Magic without the aptitude but I’ll try.」

I look at Baara, it seems most people don’t have the affinity for Recovery Magic, but I have the Skill【Wiseman’s Egg】.

「I’ll try, how do I do this?」

「Put your hands together, and visualize healing.」

「Is it similar to how other magics are activated?」

「Look for your Magic Energy. Try to collect as much as possible within both hands, and then try to activate the magic.」

「Understood.」

My place my hands on top of Baara’s. The color of my Magic Energy becomes hazy white, this must be the color of Recovery Magic.

However, it doesn’t become a strong white only an incomplete grey.

「I’m sorry, it was far from perfect. Was it helpful?」

The Magic Energy I collected is transferred to Baara. When Baara sees the gray colored Magic Energy she is surprised.

「Eh!? Are you adjusting the Magic Energy? All of this is usable for Recovery Magic!!!」

The Magic Energy Baara received from me is quickly absorbed into Nico's Body. When the pure white Magic Energy is returned to Barra's hands it becomes dyed black.

Barra transfers the black Magic Energy back to me. I covert the black Magic Energy into grey and return it to Barra who then changes it back to white.

「Purifying Magic Energy, how well do you know how to use it?」

「Purification? Do you mean changing black Magic Energy into white Magic Energy?」

「 Simply said it is like that, you were very helpful. However, someone who has recently learn magic is normally unable to perform magic purification. It isn't something that can be learned within one week's time. Nonetheless, if someone who isn't capable will never master Magic Energy purification even within a life time.」

「Is that so? Kuesu told me I have an amazing Magic Energy, perhaps, that is the source.」

Even if I can't deceive her, at least, I won't be asked why I'm able to.

「Well if you say so.」

Baara may not have believed me but she didn't ask any more questions. Lux probably won't say anymore either, he doesn't want to upset me. If he badgers me with questions he may lose my trust.

「There seems to be two types to this magic, can you teach me about them.」

I try to change the subject to something else. I'm also curious about Recovery Magic.

「There are two parts to Recovery Magic: 『Recovery Reinforcement』 and 『Recovery Assistance』.」

『Recovery Reinforcement』strengthens the body by distributing Magic Energy and circulating it inside the body. It is used to mend wounds or heal cuts, bruises and *etc*. As it's name suggests, it holds everything in place. The user can feel the body healing.

However, loss of blood is not recovered although the wound is healed. Limbs cannot be fully restored, if a wound such as a lost limb is blocked it will only heal around the severed area.

『Recovery Assistance』 creates a substitute body which can act as a replacement for loss blood or severed limbs. Although the substitute has the same functions as the original it is a deteriorate version thus it is not as good as the original.

In Nico's treatment detoxification was first used to remove the poison. The problem occurred after Barra had finished applying Recovery Reinforcement to stop the bleeding. She had exhausted her Magic Energy and was unable to use Recovery Assistances to restore Nico's stomach.

「Somehow we managed.」

Baara breathes out as a sign of relief. The surrounding combat seems to have ended. Ayla and Amy moves toward us.

「Ayla, sorry for leaving the rest of the battle to you.」

I pat Ayla's head in show of appreciation to her.

「It was no problem, I'm glad you trust me.」

She smiles happily.

「Amy, thank you for covering me. But it could have been dangerous having the Armored Mantis separate from you.」

I thank her but at the same time I reprimand her for exposing herself to possible dangers.

「Sorry, I had no choice but to send the Mantis, my ring was out of Magic Energy.」

Amy bows and obediently apologizes. I pat her head.

「Even if I survived I wouldn't be glad if Amy suffered injuries. I would rather you not get hurt.」

I remove my hand from her head, and take her hand. I transfer some of my Magic Energy into her ring. Although, it is far from being fully charged.

「Amy, use it only in case of an emergency.」

She seems embarrassed and replied with a simple nod.

「Yes, thank you very much.」

Before heading off to Welberg, I let Ruby consume the corpses of the Monsters. Although there is a large quantity of monster materials, there doesn't seem to be any Demon Stones.

After the battle in the forest Ruby's level seems to have increased. Perhaps the capacity of【Storage】had increased as well, I'll be grateful if it did.

Several hours after the battle, the sky has become dim. We should find an open space to set up camp for today. Things should be alright if each member takes turns rotating guard duty every two hours. First shift will be Lux and I, the next shift will be Feyru, Kuesu and Aru, then lastly Ayla, Amy, and Barra. Nico from Feryu's Party is exempted due to her injuries. Because Copper the Monster Tamer had lost all her Monsters her duty

will be to watch the campfire.

As the first on watch duty, we sit around the fire.

「Hibiki, you really are amazing.」

Lux suddenly begins a conversation.

「Huh?, that came out of nowhere.」

「I heard for Baara, about your talent with Recovery Magic.」

「Ah, is that so?」

If I don't want to be questioned too much, I can always change the subject. Lux seems to understand and doesn't say anything more about the topic. We both become alert sensing something approaching.

「Monsters?」

「No, they're human.」

「Is it an Adventurer's Party from Welberg? Or perhaps someone from the neighboring area?」

「Ah, if that's the case then we will arrive there tomorrow. However, they're approaching from the opposite direction of Welberg.」

「-just in case, wake everyone up.」

「Are you sure we have enough time?」

As Lux says so, he draws his sword and prepares for battle. A little late, I also draw my sword. Footsteps can be heard. A large group of people are hastily running towards us.

Ah, 100m,

50m,

30m,

10m,

They've arrived! We ready ourselves and rush towards them.

「Please wait!!」

The voice of a woman can be heard. She steps out of the forest. Her attire is similar to Baara's. But the color is more of a vivid scarlet than red.

「Blessings, I have been looking for the Hero.」

The person who appears is a beautiful girl.

Chapter 24

The beautiful girl appears to be around the age of 13-15. She walks towards us with a smile, the atmosphere had caused us to relax our guard. The woman who is leading these groups of men must be a high ranking official from the Church. Such a person is probably not a bandit. She must had noticed that we were armed and cautious of her group. Otherwise she wouldn't be trying to explain her situation. Also she mentioned, Hero.

She calmly approaches us.

Me a Hero? Surely, I do have the Divine Protection of many Gods, but Heroes only exist in manga and anime. If I am not mistaken Lux did mentioned something about a Maou that exist in this world. Doesn't a Shinto Priest have the right to select a Hero and grant them a Divine Protection of a God?

I check the Status Menu.

****

Seira Diano Shinto Priest Lv. 20 Age 14

『Selection of Iyakami』 Can grant a Hero Divine protection. Single effect.

****

Her clothes are worn, but without a doubt this beautiful girl is a『Shinto Priest』. However unlike Baara who only has the Skill Recovery Magic, this girl has a Divine Protection of a God.

Seira is standing directly in front of us. From the rear of their group, a Knight in red armor runs up to Seira and says something to her.

「Seira-sama, I'll worry, if you rush ahead alone.」

「I'm sorry, Alfred. But, I can finally meet the Hero at last.」

The Knight with the highest Level spoke to the beautiful Shinto Priest.

The leader of the Knight's seems to be named Alfred.

「I understand, but still this forest is home to many Monsters. Please be more careful.」

「Oh well, you should have scouted ahead first.」

While retorting back to Alfred, Seira greets us with a graceful bow.

「Nice to meet you. My name is Seira Diano a Shinto Priest elected by the Thora Church. The oracle foretells of the Maou revival, and the arrival of the Hero. I welcome you my chosen Hero.」

She presents her right hand, in preparation to welcome me.

「Oh, will you please kindly accept? My Hero, Hylux the Brave Heart.」

「… why are you say my name?」

The chosen Hero seems puzzled. My face is a little red. I'm ashamed of myself, I thought I was the chosen Hero.

「I have researched, and discovered that you are a descendant of a Hero.」

「I'm no longer related to that house!! And… because of me, you have arrived here in such a battered condition!!」

「You are a selected Shinto Priest of the Thora Church, you needn't be acting like a common Adventurer.」

Alfred who has been waiting behind Seira intervenes. Lux glares at Alfred with a sour face. When Baara was still a member of the Church something must have happened. Lux doesn't make a move, it seems that whatever he wanted to say is conveyed through his eyes.

Seira brushes away the heavy silence.

「I understand, you have some complicated history, but will you please let me speak.」

At her request Lux stops glaring. However his body language shows

that he is still irritated.

「First of all, has everyone awoken?」

I confirm with Lux by whisper. I didn't know the situation and did not feel safe with the current circumstances. I want to check with Baara first.

「I'm sorry Hibiki, could you take care of that?」

His expression slightly loosens, I nod. I approach the tent where everyone is sleeping. The location of the tent is a little distance away from the campfire. Away from open space it is hidden near the bushes. It is strategically chosen in case of an assault.

Gary, unlike the others is resting near the back, hidden away by the trees. As soon as I get closer his eye opens.

「Is there something wrong? It's still too early to switch.」

「Ah, we have guest.」

His expression briefly changed but refocused the moment he heard we had guest. He may have figured out that the situation wasn't direr from how easy-going I was.

「Our visitor is a selected Shinto Priest from the Church and some Knights as guards. They say Lux is the chosen Hero.」

Gary's face warps when he hears the news.

「The Shinto Priest called Lux the Brave Heart. Is Baara somehow related to any of this?」

I end the conversation there and part with Gary, it is not my place to concern myself with other people's affairs. I move to the tent to speak with Ayla and Amy. It's good that I don't have to re-explain the situation, everyone already understand based on my talk with Gary.

「Ayla, Amy. Sorry for waking you up. Are Kuesu-sensei and Baara up?」

If I recall, Ayla and Amy are staying in the same tent as Kuesu. Ayla may have been half asleep while I was on guard duty.

「Good morning Master, the two of us are now up and ready.」

「… what do you mean by "good morning"?」

Ayla, while fully awake remains alert, but Amy seems tired and slightly sleepy.

「Lux has visitors, please ask Gary for details.」

「I understand, should we prepare to depart?」

「Considering the possibilities, should we prepare for departure?」|

「Yes, please do.」

「Ah, also survey the area for Monsters. Amy come with me.」

「Yes.」

I bring Amy along in order to ask her questions about the things I don't know about in this world. The ignorant me, didn't know about the existence of a Shinto Priest or the Church.

I left the tent where Ayla stayed and return to Lux, with Amy and Gary.

「Lux, how are you doing?」

Gary asks as he immediately moves to stand near Lux. Two other women run up to Lux without delay.

Lux confirms his Party Member's faces. He tells them he is okay.

「Who is the bastard that has chosen our leader?」

Gary makes a menacing face and scowls at the visitors.

「It is I.」

Seira steps forward, the atmosphere she emits would make even the bravest of men step back.

「I, Seira Diano, a Shinto Priest of the Thora Church has elected Hylux as the Hero.」

Similar to how she greeted us before, she makes a graceful bow. There is a reaction from Baara after hearing the word Shinto Priest.

「With my given right, I nominate Hylux as the Hero, this is my decree. Hylux do you disapprove?」

「I am but an ordinary man, for me to be a Hero, even temporarily I must decline.」

「Will you please accept my refusal, and kindly return back to Welberg?」

All the members are shocked and speechless, Lux has undoubtedly refused.

「Please do not say something so selfish, we are too exhausted to accept such a response.」

They let their true feelings slip among their whispers. Seira is looking this way, however our party has already come to an agreement.

「I understand, my group will make preparations to return tomorrow morning.」

「Please do so.」

After the conversation ended Lux and his companions returned to the camp. I talked to everyone about our future plans after we had returned.

It seems the person who was supposed to watch the fire was gone, he may have disappeared when we were talking to Seira.

「Shinto Priest, I want to ask one of your Knights to watch over our campfire.」

As I talked to her I could hear that her voice was rough.

「Why should I let my guards assist you!!」

「Well, Lux is currently at my campsite. This could be your chance to earn his favor.」

Seira's expression appears mortified.

「Why don't you explain to me how "brown nosing" to Lux, will benefit my party?」

Eh!?

「Well, you could watch our campfire as a way to apologize to Lux, and he may be grateful.」

After saying what I needed, I move towards Amy near the campfire.

「Wait!!」

「What is it?」

「I will watch the campfire?」

「Aren't things fine the way they are now?」

Seira arrogantly asks, I reflexively refuse.

「Eh!?」

「Weren't you the one who suggested that?」

Seira blushes.

Ku, ku, kuku

「If you no longer have any business with me, please leave, I have to get up early tomorrow.」

「Ah.」

「Ah?」

「Could you please let me watch the campfire!!」

I'm satisfied now that I have gotten her to politely ask.

「It can't be helped, you may switch with me.」

Perhaps, Seira had a mortified expression but I couldn't see it, she was facing the other way. I head back to the tent. Amy seemed to be muttering something.

「Master, you seem lively.」

I returned to the tent, Ayla was preparing for the departure tomorrow morning. The tent had been taken down, three people were carrying it on their shoulder. Lux and the others were packing up the blankets.

Chapter 25

As we had planned, our party departed early in the morning and arrived at Welberg before evening.

At first, Feryu was surprised to see Knights after exiting the tent, but everything was sorted out after Lux explained the circumstances. It wasn't my place to meddle.

「She, umm, the Shinto Priest is from Bureto. They were informed of us by the Tri-Sword, and then we just happened to meet them by chance. Since they just happen to be there we took the liberty to ask them about Welberg.」

Half of the story seems to be true, at least the part about where Tri-sword informed them of the Monster swarm approaching the town of Bureto.

However the part about Seira, the oracle, and the search for the Hero was left out.

At that time, a member of the search party that was looking for Lux caught up with are group.

「I heard a little about you from Furon-san. Hylux-sama, I am convinced that you are the Hero.」

The fact that Seira can nominate a Hero doesn't seem to be wrong. A Shinto Priest is selected to be the representative of the Church. The Shinto Priest therefore has the right to choose the Hero as foretold by the mandate of the Oracle. The probability of becoming a Shinto Priest is low, but it is not zero. It is akin to buying a winning lottery ticket.

The lower wall of the castle circles the border of Welberg. In the same manner as the town of Bureto. There is a gate on both the west and east side.

The main street of the castletown is paved with stones. We enter from the west gate, there is a crowd of people. The castle is in the center portion of the town with a moat surrounding it. It must be for an emergency defense.

When we enter the town we part ways with Feryu, although her wounds have healed she wants to let Nico rest in a genuine bed.

We promise to meet up at the Adventurer's Guild, to distribute the reward.

「Hero, we are preparing a meal at the Church, you are welcome to join us.」

「We are Adventurers, first of all, we need to go report to the Guild.」

「Is that so, does that mean you'll stop by after?」

Seira is persistent, Lux states his conditions and accepts their offer.

「I want to have a meal with Hibiki, if he agrees to attend then I'll accept」

Seira looks displeased.

「They are my companions, if my friends are not allowed then I must refuse your invitation.」

Lux is trying to use us as an excuse to refuse the lunch invitation. I don't want him to involve me. Baara gives me an apologetic facial expression.

Gary is grinning, while Kuesu appeared to be absent-minded.

「I understand, I will also have their portion prepared.」

Seira looks displeased with us also attending. It's not like I wanted to participate.

The conversation ends, and we head to the Adventurer's Guild. The Guild and the castle are similar in design. I heard the reason is because the founding feudal lord was an Adventurer.

News of the Maou's revival from the Church must have spread because the Guild was in an uproar.

Someone had submitted a detailed report about a swarm of insect Monsters that were headed for the town of Bureto. The rumor of the revival of the Maou may have some credibility based on the recent Monster activity. The Guild is preparing to send a subjugation force to rescue Bureto.

Lux was asked to participate, I was not. For those who wanted to take part in the mission they have until the following day to sign up.

We received our reward.

While deciding which inn to stay at, Seira appears.

「Hero, there is no need for you to find accommodations, I have arranged a suitable room for you at the Church.」

Lux is looking in my direction for help, I didn't think they would go to all this trouble.

「While we look for a hotel, will the dinner invitation be scheduled for tonight?」

「Yes, you may have dinner at the Church tonight, but you extras don't have to come.」

Seira sarcastically reveals her truth feelings.

I was planning to tell Lux I would refuse, but by the time I'd noticed we

were already approached the Church.

「I bide you farewell.」

「It's not like we will meet again.」

I part ways with Lux and head towards the inn the Guild had recommended.

「The『Silver Cup』, is it this place?」

The Silver Cup inn is constructed in this world's orthodox design. The first floor is a tavern and the second floor is the lodging area.

When we enter, despite it being in the late evening there are still customers.

「Welcome! Are you here for a meal, or to stay the night?」

The person who calls out to us is an Aunty with a stout physique. Her hair is dark red and she smells of liquor. I don't see any other employees so she must be the owner of this place.

「We would like a room, do you have a room for three available?」

「We do, for how many days do you plan to stay?」

I had to think about it but, perhaps three days.

We are guided by the Aunty to the corner of the second floor.

「Breakfast is included, but guests must pay extra for midnight snacks.」

「I understand.」

The Aunty leaves the room after explaining the rules.

「Ah, I would like hot water to wash my body.」

「Okay, please wait a moment.」

After 10 minutes had passed, a tub of hot water had been filled.

「This is free, but next time you will be charged extra.」

This small tub isn't enough for three people. But with magic, providing water and fire is no problem.

I could even fill a large tub if needed.

The three of us take turns washing, and refreshing ourselves.

「I wonder are the clothes we're wearing are suitable for the dinner invitation.」

Now that think about it, I feel self-conscious and decide to wash our clothes.

「Usually one would wear better clothes when attending an event at a Church, but exactly how formal should we dress?」

My clothes are a long sleeve shirt made of cloth with a pair of trousers that extend to the ankles. The trousers are made of slightly thicker cloth. Our clothes we have on now are fairly common in this country.

It's comfortable but it is our casual attire, thus it is not for formal events. Amy judges that the dinner party will not be overly formal.

We had finished washing our clothes. There is still time until the dinner party, we change into our clean clothes and had decided to look around town.

There are various shops lined up along the main street. Above all, an Adventurer should familiarize themselves with the location of the equipment shops and the blacksmith shops.

This place is indeed an Adventurer's town.

After reaching the center of the town, we arrived near the Lord's castle.

I observe the roads, the area here seems to be designed to circle around the castle.

I turned left off the crowded main road and into a side alley.

When I turned around, there was man tending to a suspicious street

stall.

Because I was looking around restlessly the man mistook me for a country bumpkin, and called out to me.

「Onii-san, take a look~. This here is an accessory that Adventurers in this town use.」

I see rows of accessories, they're probably made out of ores.

I check the accessories with the Menu, they all appear to be low quality. At best they could be used as simple decorations. I glanced at the accessories and lost interest. I think Amy could make something like this.

The man grabs Hibiki's arms to prevent him from leaving.

「Onii-san, please buy something from me.」

With the tone in which the man spoke, it was obvious he was trying to pressure me into buying something.

「Stop it, people don't come to this town to be duped by merchants like you.」

When I look behind him, I see a woman standing there. She is carrying luggage in both hands. Although she wasn't tall, the luggage she is carrying looks heavy. Her hair is tied back in a ponytail.

「What is it, don’t bother me little miss, I have business to attend to.」

「Do you mean selling those accessories that aren’t accessories?」

The owner of the stall seems disturbed.

「W-what are you saying!! These here are splendid accessories!!」

The man appears nervous, his true nature is showing. He never stated that the accessories were equipment. Even if the ponytailed girl claims those are fake accessories, the man has protected himself by saying they are “splendid accessories”.

「Like I said, those aren’t equipment! You’re nothing but a scammer!」

I know she was trying to help, but instead of shouting she could’ve been more civilized. She shakes off the man’s hand and pulls me away from the vendor. He shouts something back, but doesn’t move from his stall.

I caught up with Ayla and Amy momentarily, they appeared dumbfounded.

「This area is not the main street, be careful of strange shops.」

「Ah, sorry. You saved me.」

「If you have money, spend it at a proper shop, there is no need to waste it on random vendors.」

This must be her place. She does look like a shop employee. It can't be helped, it's a matter of courtesy, I'll stop by her store.

「My name is Toto and this place here is my store.」

Further down the side street, we entered the shop, there is a sign that reads, Thill's Blacksmith Shop for Adventurers and custom orders. There was also a slogan written on the sign, "Buy the equipment that suits you here".

The shop has a simple wooden design. There are weapons and armors arranged in rows, it feels similar to the equipment shop in Bureto.

The woman with the ponytail places her luggage on the counter and turn to my direction.

「So, see anything you like?」

I'm surprised by the sudden conversation, I'll start taking a look around. I look through the rows of weapons and armors, searching for anything that has a『+』quality. I come across a『Sword of Iron +3』.

「This is great.」

I muttered, Toto also agrees.

「You can see its value, yes. This may seem like a rundown shop, but in the past we use to receive custom orders from the castle.」

So, I wonder why this place isn't popular.

「Father is too stubborn.」

Toto shrugs, a loud roar can be heard from inside.

「Toto!! Did you buy the thing I asked for!?」

「Shut up you're too loud!! We have guests!」

「Is it a customer!?」

A bearded man, shorter than Toto, with a well-built physique appears. Is this person Thill? This fellow, I wonder if he is a Dwarf.

「Ah, are you a customer? Ah, what do you want?」

I didn't come here in search of anything in particular. But now that I think about it, I remember that my sword and armor were ragged, and I also want a new set of equipment for my other Party Members.

「Well now then, ain't cha got a pretty good stance, just how strong are ya?.」

I guess he is referring to my level. I had Ruby who was in my leather bag in order to not seem suspicious to spit out the raw material we had accumulated so far.

「Oh, it seems like you can do some work, I can make some weapons or armor for y'all with this easily.」

This person is nodding arrogantly while confirming the material.

「How about getting something made with these materials?」

If it is possible, the armor created from this Monster material will be far stronger than the current leather armor I'm wearing. Not to mention it will also have higher magic resistance.

「Please, if you're able to.」

I explain what I need.

I plan to use a magic sword in the future.

For Ayla I need equipment that is both sturdy and easy to move in, I don't want to sacrifice her speed.

And for Amy, something lightweight. If possible, I want a better weapon for her, perhaps something made from the Shooter Bee material.

When I finish describing what I need, Thill raises an objection. There is insufficient material, so I take out more.

I'm told I will get an estimate of the cost the next time I visit.

「Since there is a good amount, come again in three days. This is a custom order, so I think it'ill take bout a week to complete.」

When I was planning to talk about the cost, Toto barges into the conversation.

「I'll inform you of the price three days from now, I can't leave the accounting to father. We'll occur a loss.」

I laugh, and nod. I would have to decline if the price was too high. To break the ice Thill suggested that I didn't have to pay the rest if I didn't have enough.

Toto sighs. I tell her I'll pay as much as I can before leaving the shop.

The time for the dinner party is approaching, I need to hurry to the Church.

「Where is the Church?」

「I don't know.」(Ayla)

「I also don't know.」 (Amy)

Oh my God. It sure is cold. (Oh my God is said in english)

Chapter 26

I return to the blacksmith shop, it is best to ask Toto for directions to the Church.

「I understand that it is your first day in town, but the castle is a giant landmark, even a drunkard could find their way through this town.」

Toto laughs as she guides us through the town.

「It's only my first day here and so much has happened, I just haven't gotten use to the area yet.」

I make an excuse, that once I get to the Church I could find my way to the Silver Cup inn. An Adventurer is in serious trouble if they have a bad sense of direction.

However, Toto was genuinely surprised.

「Today, no until yesterday you were in the forest? Did you travel through the Demon's Wilderness?」

「Ah, no I came from the town of Bureto. I haven't traveled to the Demon's Wasteland yet.」

「Isn’t it terrible? Hordes of Monsters have migrated into the forest from the Demon’s Wilderness. The Adventurers don’t know how to handle the situation.」

「That is true, there is certainly a large number of Monsters in the forest.」

The revival of the Maou isn’t publicly known. Despite Seira’s search, it is clear that a formal Hero hasn’t appeared either. After a Hero is selected perhaps there will be a public announcement about the revival of the Maou.

「I’d heard that the feudal lord and the Adventurer’s Guild are going to cooperate, it seems they are putting together a subjugation force soon.」

Is that how they are explaining why a rescue party is being sent to Bureto. I find it forewarning, although it is true that the subjugation force is being deploy it doesn’t change the fact that the Monsters are becoming more active lately.

「Anyways, the town seems to be lively.」

Perhaps it is unrelated but, the blacksmith Thill seems to not be doing well financially. He can no longer get by with the funds he has saved up from past clienteles.

It seems that the previous regulars, Adventurer customers, who knew of the quality of Thill’s goods have long retired. And every year the number

of customers decreases.

「But you know sometimes a person like you appears, and buys things from my shop, so it's possible to stay in business.」

Toto tightens her fist and looks my way.

「For now, I think you should try doing something about that unusual signboard in front of your store.」

「Unusual!? Where!?」

As I thought, that signboard is Toto's handiwork.

「Is that so, all I see is a store with an unusual signboard.」

Toto looks at the other two. Ayla appears doubtful with an embarrassed expression, Amy apologies and slightly nods.

Toto must had taken quite a shock, she trudges along looking downcast.

I try to cheer her up.

「Why not try to market on the fact that your father is a skilled Dwarf.」

On hearing Dwarf, Toto tilts her head and bursts out laughing.

「Fufu, father is human.」

「What!?」

Just judging by appearance isn't Thill what one would consider the standard image of Dwarf, a short man with a beard.

「Certainly, his does look like Dwarf.」

We continue to laugh all the way to the Church. Toto is also Laughing.

Beneath the lamplight, our arrival at the Church is filled with laughter.

「We've arrived.」

「I didn't expect things to turn out this way, nonetheless, thank you for your help.」

「No worries, you're an important customer.」

Toto bows, and then makes her way down the street.

「Bye, I'll see you again in three days.」

I return her farewell with a big wave, then we make our way to the Church.

「Ah, hello.」

The guards reply by waving their hand.

「Thank goodness Hibiki, you've finally arrived.」

We are greeted by Lux, he appears to be exhausted.

「What's wrong Lux, you look dead tired.」

The cause is probably the K.Y. Sister. (K.Y. is the acronym of the Japanese terms that stand for "unable to read the situation/mood"/"Not able to take a hint")

「Ah, you see Seira just won't leave me alone for even a minute.」

It seems after she showed Lux to his room, she never left him alone.

He hasn't gotten the chance to speak to Barra and his other companions. If she is purposely being a nuisance, she sure is clever.

I wonder if she is a nosy person by nature? Likewise, I definitely don't want to be involved with that type of person.

Lux must have left the room to get some fresh air, that's probably when he noticed our arrival.

When we enter the Church with Lux, I see Seira. She may have followed

him. Her clothes look similar to before but are less ragged, they must be a new pair.

「Huh, have you already arrived. It would had been fine even if you took your time, though.」

And yet again I meet this unpleasant and sarcastic person.

「Ah, if it isn't the person who recklessly rushed ahead without any plans.」

While ignoring the growling Seira, Lux and I move towards the dinner party area.

Apparently, the dinner party is set-up as a buffet. A lot of guests had already arrived and they seem to be enjoying their meal.

However, when we entered the hall, all the men turn towards our direction. Anyways, most of the participants here seem to have a relation with the Church. Several of the people here are probably nobles, but judging by their clothes they aren't high ranking nobles.

Their eyes seem to be appraising us, or perhaps Lux. I wonder if they had been informed of who the Hero is. Ayla is hiding behind me, she fears their rude stares. Amy is tightly gripping my sleeve, she is probably too anxious to separate from me. I caress the heads of the two, to help them relax.

When I look around I see Baara in the corner of the room, holding a

wine glass. At times she takes a sip but the amount in the glass never changes. Gary is chowing down on a heap of food. Kuesu is also there, but she is quietly eating, surprisingly they both have about the same amount of food on their plate. Although Kuesu's mouth hardly opens, the food quickly disappears at the same rate as Gary's dish. Is that some sort of magic too. I join up with Baara and Lux.

「So. Hibiki, Ayla, and Amy was that some sort of "play".」

Baara makes a shady smile while greeting us.

「Mumu~ Hibiki, the food here is delicious.」

Gary who is eating greets us as well.

I mumble to myself "don't talk with your mouth full."

Kuesu mutters something. As I thought, magicians are oddballs.

「I had enough today, I can stand another hour of being around that Shinto Priest woman any longer.」

「It's not like we enjoy being around her either.」

「Is that so?」

After all the guests have arrived, the K.Y. Sister gave a short speech. After she finished everyone began to chat among one another. I thought it was over but now she is making rounds to greet everyone.

Meanwhile, our group happily spent the time enjoying the food and drinks without being bothered.

「What is up with the silverware?」

I muttered something that was bothering me.

「Because silver has a good affinity for magic, it is metal that has a special connection to the Church.」

Baara answers.

This is for the first time since I arrived in this world, that I'd seen tableware made of silver. At the cheap inns and taverns I visited, they all had tableware made of wood.

「It must be because silverware is expensive.」

「Silverware is troublesome to maintain. If it is not polished regularly it will rust. The Church only uses the silverware on special occasions, such as when nobles are visiting.」

Kuesu answers this time. She gave a detailed explanation about silverware.

「As stated, silver has magic properties, if a Magician has a silver Accessory it can be used as a catalyst for their magic.」

「Is it similar to a Demon Ore?」

「I don't think I'm wrong, but a Demon Ore is only used for storing and retrieving magic energy, while silver can be used to amplify or draw out latent magic energy.」

「How is it used?」

「For example, if a veteran Mage, equips a wand made of silver, they would notice an increased difference in their Magic Energy.」

「I see.」

「There are some Magicians that do business in silver Equipment, but it is better to request high quality silver.」

Furthermore, I couldn't expect to hear this from anyone better than a Magician? It is best to hear information from a specialist.

「Hibiki after you join the Magician's Guild, I'll help you finds some quality silver Equipment.」

「If that is fine with you?」

「I am your Shishou of course.」

With that said, two days from now, I have made a promise to join the Mage's Guild. Until then, it is decided that magic training will be in the morning.

「Hero, are you enjoying the party?」

Seira returns to us after her rounds of greeting everyone. Gary and Kuesu both show an unpleasant expression. Barra is looking down.

Lux returns a light reply. Seira continues talking without noticing the mood.

「I want to introduce everyone who has assembled here to the Hero. Can you associate with them?」

「N, no. I was never your chosen Hero…」

「Eh, then I will just introduce you as my friend.」

Even though Lux declined he was taken away by Seira before he could finish his sentence. Barra and the others were unable to leave Lux alone, they also followed along.

I continued to enjoy the food and drinks after Lux's Party had left.

「Ayla, this meat is delicious.」

「Yes, this chicken is the town’s specialty.」

「Ayla, is chicken your favorite?」

「Yes. The meat is juicy and tender, the flavor is also rich and very delicious.」

「Is that so, Amy why don’t you also try the chicken?」

「Yes, thank you. Ah, truly delicious, this is not like any other meat I have ever tasted before.」

I pledge to the two, someday, when our earnings are high enough, all our meals will be this luxurious.

「Thank you everyone for gathering here.」

Seira is making a closing speech.

「Hibiki, sorry, I’m back.」

「No worries, the last half was just me eating.」

「That is certainly true.」

We all laugh.

I promised to meet again with Kuesu, but it is uncertain as to whether or not I will meet Lux and his other Party members again.

「Well, don't go forgetting about me now.」

I don't know what will happen but I can't seem to put my thoughts into words.

「Ah, this is our problem you don't have to concern yourself about us. Anyways, thanks for coming.」

「I look forward to our next meeting, for now I wish you well.」

「Hibiki, we will probably stay in town for another week.」

If they plan to stay here for one week that would mean that Lux's Party is planning to participate in the rescue operation.

Although Lux refuses Seira's request to be the Hero his actions are surely that of one.

「We will also be staying in town for a while.」

While feeling awestruck by Lux's heroism I say my parting words. My Party and I exit the Church.

「Tomorrow is a day off, I want to spend my free time with Ayla and Amy, is that alright?」

I give the two some time to think things over. Perhaps, they don't want to spend their free time with me? Anyways, we make our way to the Silver Cup inn.

It appears to be around late mid-night. Unlike Bureto, the streets were lit by magic powered lights.

Chapter 27

As soon as we had returned to the Silver Cup Inn my fatigue had finally caught up with me, I fell fast asleep.

The next morning I awoke to Ayla's surprised face.

「Good morning, Master.」

「Good morning, Ayla. Is there something wrong?」

「Yes, there is something going on with Ruby, her appearance is strange.」

I was curious to see what was so unusual? I looked around the room and found Ruby in the corner.

「Huh, what is it doing over there?」

「I don't know, when I had awoken it was already there?」

So it has been there since who knows how long. I turn back to look at Ruby who is in the corner of the room. Ruby is still the same color and shape, but compared to before it is amusingly large in size.

Ruby's original size is comparable to the average size of a soccer ball, but its present size is comparable to a fitness stability ball.

「Do Slimes normally grow this much overnight?」

Amy answers my mutter.

「To my knowledge, Slimes of this size do exist. But I have never heard of a Slime growing to this size overnight.」

「However, Ruby is a Slime variant, perhaps it is possible.」

「Although, it is a Color Slime, it is still a Slime thus it cannot change its attribute.」

「Color Slime?」

「Eh, isn't Ruby a Red Slime?」

「Ruby's full name is Gluttony Slime, though.」

「I have never heard of that type of Slime.」

Amy claims that Slimes have many variant and subspecies. The Color Slime variant seems to be the most well known.

At first what appears to be color on a Slime's translucent body is

actually the primary color of a magic attribute. Amy recognizes that Ruby, the Red Slime, has the attribute for Fire Magic.

「However, Slimes variants do have the possibility of becoming this large.」

Ayla converses with Ruby. Apparently, they are still able to understand one another. Ayla is relieved.

「Ruby is still itself.」

Ayla reports. I check its Status as well.

****

Ruby (Gourmet Slime) Lv. 22

Skill

【Storage】★★

Able to store items inside its body.

The capacity of Storage depends on the skill's level.

【Organize】★

Able to sort stored items.

【Manage】★

Able to search for and manage items stored.

Effect can search for items of the same type, or quantity.

****

「Huh? It isn't a Gluttony Slime anymore. And it has additional Skills. 【Organize】I guess its effect is what the name implies. 【Manage】I'm not sure what its effect is. Did Ruby undergo a metamorphosis into a Gourmet Slime because of all the materials it consumed?」

「Amy, does a Monster's name change after it has undergone a metamorphosis?」

「Isn't Ruby's name, Ruby?」

「That isn't what I meant. For example, does a Slime after it has transformed, is it re-named a Red Slime.」

「Ah yes, the name of its species does change. When a Slime variant absorbs Magic Energy and undergoes a metamorphosis its species changes to that of a Red Slime variant. Did Ruby undergo a metamorphosis? 」

「Ruby has become a Gourmet Slime variant.」

「The name sounds as if it would cost us a fortune in food expenses. How is it that Master knows which Slime variant species it has become?」

「Didn't I tell you? I can see various things in my Status Menu.」

「Was that so, as I thought a person with the Divine Protection of many Gods, is capable of various things.」(Echo: Roll Credits)

「Is there anything you can't do?」

Today was the planned day-off but because of the Monster Ruby's sudden metamorphosis we decide to check on the other tamed Monsters.

I travel to the forest area outside the west gate, it is about five minutes from town. The other tamed Monsters appear.

「Now then, I was procrastinating on giving them a name but it is about time I decided.」

「Remember, they were very helpful in the forest.」

「Yes, they were all very helpful.」

First the two Sharp Wolfs, one is male the other is female. How about Fenrir… I would've suggest but I stopped myself because it was too embarrassing. Ayla has an expression of anticipation, it is similar to when the first time Ruby joined our Party.

「Uh? The male will be "Duo", the female will be "Luo".」

「That's perfect. How romantic, just like in the old fable of the married

couple who traveled the continent.」

It seems, from long ago when Monsters had ruled the continent, there is a fable about a married couple whose home was destroyed. The married couple's names were, Duo and Luo. Without a home, they were forced to wander the continent in search for a place to live in peace.

However, in the olden times when Monsters inhabited all over the continent. Everyday their companions would disappear one by one. It is said that Duo and Luo, defended their companions until they had exhausted their strength and died.

Even in this era, it is common for a Wolf Beastman to have the name, Rou. For women, there are also many names based on, Luo. In this world the names Rou and Luo are similar to my world's, Taro and Hanako.

「Ah, so we've reach an agreement on the names, Duo and Luo.」

What name should I give the Armored Mantis?

「This one is a female Monster, right?」

Ayla answers.

A female Mantis is generally stronger than the male, is that correct?

「Huh, a female? How about Queen?」(Queen is in English)

When I examine the Mantis, she somehow resembles a Queen-sama.

「Queen, huh?」

「What kind of name is Queen?」

「Ah, is it no good?」

「No that isn't so, the name is definitely easy to say.」

「I see then, pleased to meet you Queen.」

And thus, all the tamed Monster's names were decided.

****

Duo (Sharp Wolf) Lv.17

Skill

【Roar】★

A loud shriek that has a low probability of inflicting Panic.

The success rate depends on the Skill's level.

****

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Lou (Sharp Wolf) Lv.16

【Howl】★

Can call for reinforcements from Monsters of the same family.

Range and the number of reinforcements gathered depends on the Skill's level.

****

****

Queen (Armored Mantis) Lv.22

Skill

【Poison Resistance】★

Has resistance to poison.

****

「Okay, on to the next task.」

「Ah, you mean that item?」

It was about the Item Ayla and I talked about this morning. Ayla had told me that she wanted to go find more special Monsters to Tame.

****

Monster Flute + 4

Only Monsters can hear the sounds produce by this flute.

****

It is similar to a dog whistle. Anyway, an Item such as a Monster Flute did not exist. At least that is what Ayla has said.

By using the Monster materials from a Monster's horn I made the Item Monster Flute with only sounds Monsters could hear. For the time being, the Item is only experimental.

I used the Item, and I was surprised that it works. I wonder, how am I able to create an Item that doesn't exist.

Well, it is a fantasy world.

「For now, Ayla try using this flute.」

「Yes.」

A faint sound is heard. Based on Queen's reaction to the sound, the Monsters in the surrounding areas must have also heard it.

「Can you hear it Ayla, if so, why don't you try to command the Monsters

with the flute. It could be very helpful from far away.」

「Yes, thank you very much for your suggestion.」

Aria walks towards the Monsters and gestures something.

She is probably giving instructions with the flute.

As I watched them I'm amazed. The Monsters seem to be moving in coordination with one another. That reminds me, all the Tamed Monsters have Skills.

I wonder, did they learn the Skills because of their experiences, or is it because they gained Skills when they are Tamed.

While we were still traveling through the forest, I didn't bother checking their Status. I was more concerned about Ayla and Amy's Statuses.

Chapter 28

When I check my Status the number of my Skills had increased.

I was a Swordsman when I entered the forest. After I left the forest, I got the Skill【Swordsmanship】.

I didn’t have that Skill before.

I experimented with changing my Job Class to Magic Swordsman. I acquired various Skills for that Job Class. I switched my Job Class to Magician, and I gained the Skills:【Magic Sword】,【Reinforcement Magic】, and【Support (common magic)】.

When I previously changed my Job Class to Magician I didn’t acquire any Skills, perhaps, I hadn’t yet fulfilled the requirements. The Skills acquired seem to be saved in each Job Class category, the Skills are not lost if I change my Job Class.

If my theory is correct【Magic Energy Sword】should be similar to the【Magic Sword】that Feyru uses.

However,【Magic Energy Sword】unlike【Magic Sword】is not an attribute enchantment. But rather【Magic Energy Sword】is a materialized blade of a selected attribute.

When I slash with the magic blade, the area where I had cut is burnt.

I am able to manipulate the fire that is coated on the sword.

I try out various attribute experiments. I coat my sword with Recovery Magic Energy and seem to have created a technique that will heal injuries after being cut.

Next I try,【Support Magic】. It seems to be a type of magic that buffs Status or inflicts a Status ailment.

I have an idea. I try using the Monster Flute on my Monster companions. It worked, the Monster's Stats have increased.

Is the reason the Item works because I have used a Demon Ore in its production?

However, there was no effect when I tried using Fire Magic to buff them.

Perhaps the problem is solved during the process of infusing Magic Energy into the Demon Ore.

Before making the Item, I need to transfer Magic Energy into the Demon Ore and give it an attribute.

The Item operates similar to the ring. Magic Energy needs to be stored in the Item, and the user has to be aware of the effect.

Every time I blow the flute Magic Energy is depleted. It works, how fortunate.

****

Hibiki Jinno Lv.25

Magic Swordsman Age 16

Skill

【Wiseman's Egg】★

Can acquire all magic.

|

|-【Fire Magic】★★

|-【Water Magic】★

|-【Recovery Magic】★

|-【Reinforcement Magic】★

└【Support Magic】★

【Job Class Revision】★

Can change Job Class.

【Master's Knowledge】★

Can use one's Slaves' Skills.

Effect dependent on Skill's Level.

【Magic Sword】★

Can enchant a sword with a magic attribute.

Strength dependent on Skill's Level.

【Swordsmanship】★

Bonus points to Stats when a sword is equipped.

Effect dependent on Skill's Level.

****

Ayla's new Skill【Monster Knowledge】combined with my Skill, allows me the right to use our Monster companions' Skills.

The【Trainer】Skill is very good, it lets us decide the growth of our Monster companions.

Thanks to the Monster Flute cooperating with our Monsters is made easy. The new Skills may be a blessing in disguise.

****

Ayla Lv.22

Monster Tamer Age 15

Skill

【Monster User】★★

Can befriend Monsters.

【Monster User Bonus（Divine Protection）】

Bonus points to the Stats of Monsters befriend.

Bonus point to growth Stats of Monster befriend.

【Monster Knowledge】

Can use the Skills of Monsters Befriend.

Effects equal to target Monster.

【Trainer】★

Can manage Monsters growth.

****

With Amy's new Skill【Refinement】she is now able to make ingots with higher purity from the raw materials.

As a trial, I try refining a Demon Ore. A Demon Ore +4 was created.

****

Amy Lv.16

Alchemist Age 14

Skill

【Item Creation】★★★

Can create Items.

【Item Creation Bonus（Divine Protection）】

Bonus effect to Items created.

Effect Dependent on Skill's Level.

【Enchantment】★★

Grant an effect to a weapon or armor.

【Enchantment Bonus（Divine Protection）】

Grants bonus to enchantment effect.

Effect dependence on Skill's Level

【Refinement】★

Processes the material and raises its quality, increasing the material's Rank.

****

I thought to myself, if Skills can be acquired, why doesn't everyone change their Job Class?

When I ask Amy, she tells me that people who constantly switching their Job Class will make themselves an enemy of the Guilds.

Even if they are able to peaceful resign from the Guild in most cases they will have to pay a heavy penalty.

By the way, "Adventurer" is not a Job Class, the Adventurer's Guild is a

business. For example: there are Magician Adventurers, Alchemist Adventurers, and *etc*.

After testing out my new Skill, I experiment with my companions' Skills.|

I evoke【Selection】, under【Master's Knowledge】I choose Ayla's【Monster's Knowledge】. From my understanding【Selection】allows one to search for various things. For example, among all of my possessions I can narrow down the search to a specific item.

I am able to find a Potion +4 a midst all the Potions among Amy's belongings.

This is an unexpectedly convenient Skill.

After having a discussion about Job Classes and Guilds, I learn that apparently there is no『Magic Swordsmen's』Guild.

Most『Magic Swordsmen』register at the Adventurer's Guild, it seems only some of them belong to the Magician's Guild.

There is a【Demon Tamer's】Guild.

At the Demon Tamer's Guild, one can buy and sell Monsters, or purchase Monster Equipment. They also offer a Monster Breeding service.

I wasn't aware that Monsters had pedigrees.

At the Guild, there are Monster battle exhibition matches. Monster Tamers can have their Monster team battle against other teams.

A team can consist of 2-3 Monsters, 5 for a team of smaller Monsters.

There is a possibility of a Monster becoming wild once again and attacking its Tamer. Therefore, Monsters that become no longer useable are either sold off or released. The Monster Tamer's Guild's main line of work is probably buying and selling Monsters.

Currently it isn't a problem but eventually I will need to visit the Alchemist's Guild.

「How about we try doing some combat practice.」

「Yes, I'm always ready.」

Ayla replies, she sure is reliable. I take out a vial from my leather bag.

It is a bait bag(sachet), made from a Fragrance Ant's odor. This can be used to lure Monsters. By using the Fragrance Ant's odor I can create many other types of pheromones. The one I'm holding in my hand is a『Monster's Pheromone +4』.

As the name suggest it will draw Monsters to the user.

This mixture is created from low level『Monster Pheromones』, it shouldn't attract high level Monsters. Approximately five minutes after using the pheromones, 10 Goblins appeared from the forest. Perhaps, there is a Goblin nest nearby.

Upon seeing the face of the Goblin, Amy displays an unpleasant expression. She most likely remembers that incident with the Goblins, awhile back.

「Are you alright?」

「… I'm fine.」

She doesn't seem to be pushing herself.

A Goblin approaches us, I try activating【Roar】.

「GOAAAAAAA!-cough」

Although my throat hurts, half of the Goblins halted and began to cower.

The cowering Goblins obstructed the path of the Goblins that weren't affected.

Using【Support Magic】I spray a paralyzing fog.

About 10 Goblins become completely immobilize.

「Huh, wasn't that too easy? Do they have no resistances to paralysis?」

「It is probably because the Goblins are low Leveled.」

The Goblins had an average Level of 5.

Currently we can handle Monsters of this level with no problem.

I wonder, does the increase in low level Monsters have anything to do with the current events. Anyways, perhaps my Status affects the probability of success.

I use【Selection】and have Ruby capture a Goblin.

I check its Status, it doesn't have any noteworthy Skill.

This time I active a Monster Tamer's Skill. I want to try experimenting with my Monster companions. Under【Selection】I pick Ayla's【Trainer】Skill. I test it on the captured Goblin.

I train the Goblin for two hours, and then I check its Status.

****

Goblin Commander Lv.6 Age 2

Skill

【Commander】

Can command Monsters of the same race with a lower rank than oneself.

Effect dependent on Skill's Level.

****

Its species has changed.

It has a Skill similar to【Leadership】, but it was somewhat different.

Furthermore, it can only command Monsters of the same race.

Perhaps, it is a lower rank Skill of【Leadership】.

Is it really alright to be commanding Goblins?

I cure the paralysis on the Goblins, and let the Goblin Commander take charge of the group of Goblins.

「Giiiii」

「Gii?」

「Gigii!!」

It wasn't able to take command immediately. An hour later it brings the Goblins under its command.

It has some ability after all.

「Okay, from now on your name is LaLu, take this sword and work hard.」

I hand the Goblin Commander, LaLu, a spare iron sword and order him to take his squad to collect Monster materials.

I didn't sense any intelligence from the other Goblins beside LaLu. He was the only Goblin who understood the significance of the sword I presented to him.

I try to not give them any impossible orders, and inform them to avoid

contact with other humans. I didn't order them to avoid humans because of a moral reason, but rather I feared they would be subjugated. Since, this place is nearby the Adventurer's town.

Besides, I'm not expecting much from the Goblin Corps.

This is still an experiment. I'm testing the usage limit of my Monster companions. I blow the Monster flute and let LaLu remember the sound. I inform him to return to us when he hears the flute.

After confirming that I could combine【Selection】and【Trainer】to teach a Monster a Skill, we return to the Inn.

Tomorrow is magic practice with Kuesu, and registering with the Magician's Guild.

Chapter 29

[tl: Magic Energy, MP —> Maryoku]

On the morning of the next day, I met up with Kuesu at the church, as we had promised. The house-sitting was left to Ayla and Amy.

I told them that today was a free day, because we didn't get enough rest yesterday. We've also gone through hard times during these past several days. I left them with enough money for a meal and some more, for their own use.

(Light: pocket money.)

「Good morning, Kuesu-shishou」

Kuesu, who looks even sleepier than the people that I had walked passed earlier, was waiting for me in front of the Church's doors.

「Good morning. I wonder, why do we have to feel so sleepy in the morning?」

She uttered philosophical words as a morning greeting. I've already known from several days ago in the forest that she was not a morning person.

「Wouldn't have it been better if we started it a bit later?」

「No, I'm alright. I'll be sleepy no matter when I wake up anyways.」

「I see」

This conversation has already been repeated many times in the forest. It has already become our usual morning greetings.

Well, the promise is still being kept, and any issue that has appeared had been disregarded without a problem.

「So, why did you pick our meet-up point at this place?」

I looked up with, complex feelings, toward the K.Y. Sister who stood nearby.

「I-I'm only here on lookout… because, there has been a suspicious person coming into the Church's area recently…」

I can only sigh in response.

「Hey you. If you hate me, so much, then is it not pointless to waste your time with me? That way, both of us can be happy.」

「I-it's not like all, this is pointless!!」

The reason she picked a quarrel with me is because she couldn't accept my opinion. She blushed and screamed.

「Ah, understood. Shishou, let's just hurry up and go.」

「Yeah, this place is too noisy. I can't even go back to sleep.」

Kuesu interrupted. She is still trying to sleep… and thus, we left the Church. What the heck, she really likes to sleep.

「Aa」

Seira seemed to have wanted to say something, but I pretended to not noticed and kept walking. Listening to verbal abuse isn't a hobby of mine.

It's been decided that we'll have magic practice near the forest, where we tested our skills yesterday.

「You are able to cast Fire and Water spells, right?」

「Yeah, but I still have a long way to go with Water magic.」

Although the power of Fire magic is quite formidable, I'm a bit insecure with using Water magic for attacking.

「Then today, we'll be practicing magic attributes. After all, to be my apprentice, you have to pass the exam for both Fire and Wind magic.」

I confirmed Kuesu's status.

****

Kuesu El Manaroad Lv.32

Magician Lv.16

Skill

【Fire Magic】★★★★

【Wind Magic】★★★★

【Earth Magic】★

【Water Magic】★

【Magic Enchantment】★★★

【Support Magic】★★★

【Magician Bloodline】★★

The descendant of magician, able to learn magic easily.

****

Kuesu's Fire and Wind magic are amazing. I've never seen anyone who had four stars on their skills.

Also, she is able to cast both Earth and Water magic, even though they're at level 1. It seems I had become the student of an amazing magician.

「For starters, I'll cast Wind magic.【Annihilator】, Try to sense it. That way, you might be able to manipulate the wind the same way I do.」

After that, a sudden gust blew in our surroundings. And then, the wind slowly swirled around us and became a small tornado

「Ahh, Shishou. Pretty spartan.」

「Spartan…?」

「It's fairly harsh!!」

「Is that so?」

My voice is now being obstructed by the noise of the wind, and my voice can't quite reach Shishou unless I loudly shout. However, I can still hear Shishou's voice clearly, even though she's not shouting.

This is the result of manipulating the wind completely, huh.

I concentrated on the tornado that Kuesu created. I am able to somewhat feel the Maryoku

flow that caused the wind.

「This is… amazing」

The Maryoku is knitted into the surrounding wind. The strings of Maryoku gather and thickens, but it doesn't become thin nor does it

tangled at all.

I tried to experiment by extending more Maryoku into the threads.

「Uwa, it's being pulled!?」

The moment when the Maryoku came into contact with the thread, it was quickly pulled by the rotating strings. It felt like my Maryoku was being woven, as if it was attached onto a sewing machine.

「Can you see the strings? The Maryoku within each strand isn't much. The entire magic is being controlled by each individual thread, that each contain a small amount of Maryoku.」

I see, Kuesu created a tornado by visualizing an air vacuum. I guess my imagination wasn't good enough.

She really is an amazing teacher, if I don't show good results, it'll be fairly wasteful. (Light: Wasteful. As in, having a great teacher yet still sucking bad.)

If that were the case, I won't be able to be seen with respect. I quickly disconnected the Maryoku flowing to the threads; I imagine my Maryoku quickly filling the spaces within the tornado.

「Oh, like this…huh.」

I noticed that my Maryoku was slowly covering the wind from the outside.

The parts of the wind that was being covered with my Maryoku was gradually increasing, until it thoroughly covered its outer layer. Now, I am able to move the tornado according to my will.

「You are able to control the tornado? Then now, try to cancel it.」

I tried to cancel out the tornado by reversing the flow of Maryoku that is fueling it.

「It's impossible to cancel it immediately. Unlike fire, it doesn't disappear in instantly. I try to imagine the strings being untied, the collected winds began to disperses.」

Obediently listening to Shishou's advice, the strings that were amassed were: resolved, then untied, and lastly the winds dispersed.

「Fuu, it took quite some time…」

Kuesu shook her head as she mutters in relief.

「That's not true at all, You're really excellent. Normally, conquering a tornado can't be done in a single day.」

「…then why did you make me do that?」

「Because【Annihilator】is my student, so it's pretty obvious that you're excellent.」

It's impossible to complain when you've seen Kuesu nodding several times in a pretty happy mood.

And besides, I was able to acquire 2 stars for【Wind Magic】. So I don't really have any complaints.

We finished learning【Wind Magic】around noon, so we decided to return to the town and have lunch together. It's my first time eating together with Kuesu, with only the two of us. Although, I've understand that it's unlikely for there to be any more development in our relationship.

「Want to head to the Magician's Guild after this?」

「Sure, it seems around noon is the best time to take the exam anyways.」

「Why? Is it that you don't remember any Wind magic?」

「Un? When the time comes, I can always use the fifth class【Fire Magic】I have learned.」

「But still, why is it, you must have a student that is good at both【Fire Magic】and【Wind Magic】?」(Light: Have no idea what's going on here, tbh. I'm just an editor, i promise!)

I feel as if I've already asked that of Kuesu this morning.

「To begin with, it can't be said that my Shishou is not amazing. Rather, she is waste on someone without talent.」

After all, it's because of the【Sage's Egg】, that now I am able use any

type of magic without a problem.

「Well, you usually choose your first student from amongst your relatives, since the options are quite numerous. And besides, my expectations are too high. 」

「Huh? Didn't you say that I was your first student?」

「That's right. You are my best student, so turning out to be an imitator isn't allowed.」

When she says that with an usual unfocused look as she's eating, it sounds fairly serious. However, I've seen her face enough times to know that it's just her own idea of a joke.

「Then why didn't you chose a student from your relatives?」

After she heard that, she went silent. I regretted saying that. She probably has her own reasons, like Lux and Barra.

「T-that, was something I shouldn't have mentioned… It was insensitive of myself, because「I don't really have any relatives」」

Although my question was answered, I still haven't heard her circumstances yet.

「I see, Then it couldn't have been helped.」

I didn't ask any further, and our conversation came to a halt.

There doesn't seem to be many Magicians that belonging to the Magician's Guild in the town of Bureto. When we finished with our meals, we headed to the Magician's Guild. According to Kuesu, the Magician's Guild is supports Magicians, even those who become Adventurers. When I asked Kuesu where the Guild is located, there was no response.

「The Magician's Guild's atmosphere isn't anything like downtown. The Magician's Guild's management isn't very orderly, after all.」(Light: the original line said 'is very orderly' rather than 'isn't very orderly'. I think, that that's an error on the Author's side if you continue reading.)

The basic policy for the Magician's Guild seems to be to not pursue any who leave it. It's pretty much a place where you are free to come and go. It's also a place where individuals with strong Maryoku gather.

Such individuals will, of course, be regarded as important within the Magician's Guild.

There are two sides that are responsible the Guild's employment system.

However, the section that is taken charge of the management of Magicians is also in charge of all talents being employed within the kingdom.

When the Magician's Guild was first established, its intent was to gain favor of Magicians.

However, the royal family at the time explained the dangerous side of being a Magician, so that management went to hell almost immediately…

「Therefore, in the town of Bureto, only a few Magicians belong to the

Magician's Guild. The Magicians who are also working as Adventurers won't even approach that place.」

「I see.」

Therefore, I wanted to finish my Magician's exam in Welburg.

When we arrived at the Guild, I noticed that there were many people wearing robes, both young and old.

「Why do all Magicians like wearing robes?」

「Because robes are universal! They can be worn anywhere and anytime.」

There's another robe believer here! (Light: Robes fever?!)

The insides of the Magician's Guild is exactly the same as that of the Adventurer's Guild. There are reception desk, inside, so we probably need to head there and explain our business.

「Wait here, I'll head over there and finish up your application.」

Kuesu approaches the reception desk. After exchanging a few words with the man behind the counter, she returns.

「Let's go. And take out your Guild's Card.」

Kuesu took the lead, we made our way through the building, to an underground room. There, I handed in my Guild's Card to a staff member nearby, to begin the exam.

The Guild's staff member gives an explanations about Guilds' Cards. It seems that those who haven't registered with the Adventurer's Guild can still have a Guild Card issued straight from the Magician's Guild.

「The exam shall now begin. Hibiki-san, please come forward.」

A, 30-years old, female magician said toward me. How do I know that she's a Magician? Simple. Because she's wearing a robe!! (Light: Added 'Simple' on my own. Felt it was better that way, no?)

「Over here, we can measure your level.」(Light: Stats)

There was some sort of 30cm cube next to the woman. This cube can be used to measure Maryoku levels, it seems.

My【Fire Magic】was collected into my right hand. Then, it dispersed, and flames covered my whole body.

「Yes, that's excellent. I see that your【Fire Magic】is fourth class. Can you also use other types of magic?」

「I can.」

My results are the following: I used【Wind Magic】. A tornado gradually appeared from the ground, similar to the one from this morning. As of now, I am able to make this tornado using【Wind Magic】. Moreover, it's impossible for me to control it all at once, because the winds of a tornado

are quite violent. So, I need to take this very seriously.

The instruction that I received was to make the tornado exactly the same as Kuesu.

「Great.【Wind Magic】is at the Fifth class. As expected of the Flame Whirlwind's student, to be able to unleash the full power of a whirlwind, at such a young age.」

The Flame Whirlwind seems to be Kuesu's nickname. Kuesu had advised me not to use any other magic during the registration's time, because being able to use various types of magic will attract a lot of attention.

「Now then, we will register the result of this exam on your Guild's Card. Please take a seat in the waring room. In a separate matter, Kuesu-san, the requirement for the promotion to 1st rank has been achieved, congratulations!」

With that, we returned to ground level and move to a waiting room.

The Guild Card was delivered about five minutes later.

「With this, our promise has been fulfilled. Thank you very much for everything!」

「I'm also really grateful for everything. Here, a commemorative gift for my best student.」

She took out a silver earing from within her robe. It's an elaborate small earring, which had a small red and green colored jewel on it.

「This, please accept it.」

「Are you sure? It looks fairly expensive…」

With only a single glance, I can tell that it's a high quality accessory. It'll be pretty understandable if it was even gifted on a dinner date between two lovers.

「It's fine. This is proof that you're my student.」

She turned a bit red when I accepted the earring. (Light: Dere dere~)

****

Earring of the Flame Whirlwind

Proof of being the student of the Flame Whirlwind.

****

「Is this jewelry related to magic as well?」

「It's a【Magic gem】. Its has an effect similar to【Magic Stones】, in the case that they both respond to magic. This, has my Maryoku stored within.」

「Hee~ It's my first time seeing it.」

「【Magic Gems】are rare after all. This time though, it's a special occasion.」

「I'll make sure to cherish it」

「Please do.」

Because we already finished up with the Exam, we ended up walking through the streets. After we ate dinner together, I escorted Kuesu to the church.

When I arrived back at the inn, Ayla and Amy asked me about the earring. So I ended up telling them that it's a gift from Kuesu to her student.

「For a magician, they show their way of affection by transferring their Maryoku into a【Magic Gem】. I wonder, why did Kuesu do that?」

Amy explained with a confused expression.

「Eh? No way, this is just a commemorative gift. There's just no such feelings…」

While I didn't know how to respond to Amy's question, Ayla was…

「Went together with Kuesu-san, I'm jealous…」

When Amy heard that, she was quite surprised.

It seems that finally, Amy understood that I was alone with Kuesu.

「If you want, we can go out, the three of us together.」

「But with Kuesu-san, it was only the two of you, right?」

With that being said, I promised to go with Ayla to the Monster Tamer's Guild. And I promised Amy, that I would take her to the Alchemist's Guild.

When I asked them where they wanted to go, both of them answered.

「We'll leave it to Master.」

That's being their answer, I finally noticed that going together to the two guilds might not be their true purpose.

Alright then, let the date wars begin!

I remember. I still need to head over to Thill's place tomorrow, so I'll end up dragging these two with me.

The two girls were so excited, they were rolling in their bed throughout the night.

Chapter 30

The very next day after I had passed the Magician's Guild's exam, I woke up with a headache.

Ayla and Amy were pouring their affection, oh-ever-loudly, that the Innkeeper's granny would probably tell me with a serious face, 『You quite enjoyed yourself last night.』.

I'm planning on going to Thill's shop this afternoon, to get new equipment.

As an adventurer, I can't really ignore our equipment. Pushing myself to move, I was able to creep out of the bed.

However, the first scene that greeted me right after getting up, was a quarrel between Ayla and Amy.

Apparently, there was an issue with deciding the dates' schedule.
(Light: But of course, you horny protag.)

Because there were no methods to calm them down, I taught them rock-paper-scissors.

「Please wait a second! You slowed down earlier, didn't you! I demand a rematch!」

「…You're pretty sharp.」

I explained the the rules of rock-paper-scissors, and Amy instantly developed the『Pulling out late』trick. Ayla was able to pick up on it, because of her wonderful dynamic vision.

After redoing it a few times, the result has been decided. I'll be going out with Ayla tomorrow, while Amy's turn will be the day after tomorrow.

While we were heading to Thill's shop, I noticed that Ayla was cheerfully following along.

「You're seem to be in high spirits.」

「Yes, I apologize. It's just that, I'm very happy.」

Ayla who kept on smiling, apologized by lowering her head. I only smiled in response to her attitude.

Amy directed a warm glance at Ayla while smiling wryly. Probably, she was looking at Aria's attitude as well.

「Ruby~ Tomorrow, I'm going out with Master~」

Ruby's expression, who stood by Ayla, was hard to understand.

This might also be a form of communication. Ruby, who was a devoted

listener, was occasionally trembling to himself.

To think that she would repeat things to this degree, that even a slime would cringe in disgust…

Our pace slowed down a bit due to the fact that we're all paying attention to Ayla. To be honest, we still haven't decided the time yet. (Raizu: For the date tomorrow.)

「Good morning~ It's Hibiki. Thill, Toto, are you both there~?」

「Yes. Please, come in. My father has been expecting you.」

Toto came out from behind the counter, and answers my greetings. We then proceeded past the counter and entered the office inside.

「Oh, you came.」

「Hello, Thill.」

「Your equipment are almost done. It only needs a bit of adjusting, to your physique and Maryoku.」

There were weapons and armors created, off to the side of the office, from Monsters' materials on the wall.

Thill came in front of Amy while holding a complete set of armor from

his worktable.

「For the small lady, the armor that's made from the shell of the Armor Mantis. Their shell are both strong and light. It's so light in fact, that even without wings, it'll feel like as if you were flying.」

The shell armor, which was shaped to cover the vital points of the body, was curvy. Amy received the armor, and gave the breastplate a shake.

It's really lightweight.

「For a weapon, I've prepared a magic bow that is able to shoot repeatedly.」

「A magic bow?」

Because it's my first time hearing those words, I ended up reacting.

「Huh? Can it be that you don't know? It's a type of a bow that uses Maryoku instead of a bowstring. So, it's close to a gun. But it's called a magic bow due to it shooting arrows.」

Guns seem to exist in this world. In the future, let's make sure to try it. But for now, let's focus on the magic bow.

「How do I put Maryoku into the magic bow?」

「You just need to extract it from a Magic Stone. When it is empty, just replace the Magic stone.」

「What type of magic can we use on it? It seems like it'll cost a lot for replenishments, because magic is quite rare.」

「Yeah, it's【Wind Magic】and【Fire Magic】. You can use a magic sword, right? Then you can just replenish it yourself.」

Even though it's a bit different, a wind magic bow and a fire magic bow seem great. I've also been told to carry around short arrows, for convenient use.

「Amy, are you fine with that?」

「E…ahh…Yes. Wait, wait, the magic bow's got to be very expensive…」

It certainly is. Around 2 to 3 times more so than a shortbow. Moresome, we need to buy the materials ourselves, so the price will probably rise even further in the shop.

「Still, our party's offensive power will increase.」

I often survived battles, due to our logistical support, thanks to Amy.

Furthermore, this time, we will have both Wind and Fire magic for support. It's been decided, we'll be creating both of them. (Raizu: 'Them' as in arrows.)

「Now, on to the big lady.」

Earlier, he called Amy a『Small Lady』while now, he called Ayla a『Big Lady』. He wasn't talking about their height, I know that for sure.

However, I'm not getting any perverted vibes from Thill, so I'm not quite sure what type of sizes he's talking about…

Most likely, he needs to know about the body's bumps and dents to make an armor.

A scale armor, made from the scales of the Poison Boa, was handed over to Ayla.

When we defeated the Poison Boas its scales and its husk would usually remain. It was then processed, and made into this armor.

He also passed on a gauntlet and a leg protector, which were embedded with a metallic plate, in order to increase the defense for the vital points.

To start with, the scales of the Poison Boa's shined with a wet-like luster; giving the armor an excellent resistance against stab attacks.

This time around, a knife was passed on to Ayla. It was decorated with a Magic Stone on the blade and the black handle.

The knife's blade was around 50cm, and it's probably larger compared to my mental image of a knife. (Raizu: He's imagining a normal knife, which length is around 30-40cm)

Actually, he prepared two weapons. One is a straight blade and has a ledge in its grip. This is a parrying blade, used for defense.

The other weapon is a sword with a curved blade. It's a kukri knife.

As I explained to Thill regarding the two blades, Ayla was adjusting the grip of swords. As expected, there doesn't seem to be any problems with them.

「The last ones are for you.」

Thill passed a breastplate that was made by the same material as Amy's armor. He also passed along a gauntlet and the leg protector, which were exactly the same as Ayla's scale armor.

「Your armor order is really wonderful, because they're all created from superior materials.」

When I took a closer look at the armor, I noticed that there was a great pattern drawn on its surface. There was also something similar on the gauntlet and leg protector.

「I applied these patterns for various effects. With that, a carved seal appeared on its surface.」

The carved seal, is something that appears when creating weapons and armors. For equipment to have carved seals appear while being manufactured, means that they are of an excellent quality. There are also some cases where a blacksmith would carve the seal on their equipment, as a fraud.

「And here, this is your sword.」

Thill then passed a sword that's sheathed like a Japanese sword on to me. Oh… it's actually a western sword that simply resembles a Japanese sword.

「This fellow was created from the Armor Mantis. While taking a look at the sickle of the Armor Mantis', I ended up getting the idea to create this sword.」

I tried to strike the part of the sickle that came out of the sheath. And so, I faintly shot magic at it for that purpose.

When I told Thill that I liked this sword, he nodded in satisfaction and then passed me six throwing daggers.

「It has been a long while since the last time I've gotten into work like this. When I finally came to, I ended up creating these too. If you'd like, you can have them.」

After receiving the knife, made from Sharp Fang, I once again thanked him.

However, Thill refused to accept my thanks, because he has yet to complete my request.

We were driven out of the office after our talk ended, and then we asked Toto about the custom-made equipment prices.

The total estimate of the custom-made equipment order, was different than Toto's first estimate. But since it seemed like the honest cost, I decided to pay everything right away.

Unexpectedly receiving a full cash payout from me, Toto was really surprised.

「Amazing, to be able to pay this amount of money all at once…We should've overcharged a bit more…」

Toto jokingly laughed.

「I've already figured out that I'll need money for today. And to start with, having this amount of money in reserve is normal.」

「That's unexpected. For Adventurers, whenever they get their hands on gold, it never leaves. Or so I thought.」

So it's like that!! I'd better remember that well.

「May I ask one more thing?」

「What is it?」

I asked Toto a favor, in preparations for the date. I made sure our talk was not overheard by Amy and Ayla… Toto was grinning at me, but I decided to ignore her.

Our equipment fitting ended just before noon. The two of them said that we can pick up our equipment after four days.

It seems like there were a few things that we could've taken right away, but I ended up deciding to leave them there and keep looking forward to receiving them all at the same time.

Because we didn't have any plans after we finished with our business at Thill's shop, we decided to go for a meal for the time being. And we stopped by a coffee shop that sold snacks.

So, what do we do now? Looking at Ayla's and Amy's clothes is getting me quite a bit worried.

Today, Ayla is wearing an armor. Beneath that, was a long sleeved shirt and a pair of trousers.

Besides, the girls aren't wearing tattered clothes, so I don't think it's a problem for an everyday wear.

However, another question about their everyday clothes appeared.

I immediately spoke to Ayla.

「We still have a lot of time left. Ayla, Amy, let's go clothes shopping.」

「Clothes? Muu, we already have enough clothes.」

「Yes, furthermore we recently custom-ordered armor」

「It's not for everyday wear nor is it equipment. I want the two of you to buy cute, girly clothes.」

The two of them directed vacant stares at me. D-did I say something weird?

「If the two of you don't know what kind of clothes are good, then let's shop directly!」 (Light: As in, we can try them on and see how good they look.)

We aimed for a clothing shop on the main street, and thus we exited the coffee shop. The entertainment facilities for the rich seems to be enhanced within this town that is known as the Adventurer's town.

We went into a clothing store that aimed for such a person.

「Welcome!」

As soon as we entered, a clerk immediately rushed to welcome us.

「I want so ask, if you have any suggestions for these two girls?」

「Understood. Please, ladies, this way.」

「Umm…」

「Err…」

Both Ayla and Amy are staring at me, as if they can't understand what's currently happening.

「Because we're all going on a date, I want the two of you to dress in lovely clothes. You can pick anything you like.」(Light: Smooth~)

After hearing what I said, both Ayla and Amy smiled happily, and were taken into the fitting rooms by the clerk.

When the two disappeared, I sighed.

Even though Ayla and Amy behave so well, this clothing shop is a totally different world. They might feel too self-conscious about visiting here, since clothing shops in this world have such an unpleasant origin, after all. I'm just glad that there was a coordination clerk within the shop, or else I would've been asked endlessly about clothes by both Ayla and Amy. But this shop is the best, to keep a master's dignity.

「How is this?」

The clerk brought out Ayla from the fitting room.

Ayla showed up, wearing an azure colored dress.

Her skirt's hem is under her knees, so it doesn't look vulgar at all. I felt desire welling up from within, as I looked toward her snow-white legs. They were dazzling.

Her neck was in full show, so both her collarbone and shoulders have been exposed completely.

An unusual straw hat was, riding, on top of her head, covering Ayla's beast ears.

However, in spite of her wearing a hat, her tiger ears were still slightly visible through the straw hat.

「This dress is made from smooth fabric, which ensures that it's very soft and comfortable, so it's very popular. It especially suits those who are a bit short! As for the hat, it's because some people look down on beastmen, and also because beastmen hate to forcibly cover their ears– but this kind of hat works just perfectly, comfortably covering the ears.」

The clerk then started her explanation regarding Ayla's clothes. Although I was prepared to hear her long chatter, it suddenly came to an end. Just when I was starting to wonder about her sudden halt, she started explaining Amy's clothes.

I see, so those two girls asked the coordinator to fairly give an explanation of their attire, without neglecting the other.

Not bad.

As for Amy's clothes, she was wearing a white blouse that was dotted with frills. She was also wearing a black skirt with frills.

It might be the effect of the frills, but doesn't she look a bit younger?

However, she didn't look like a young girl, but rather like a『Young Woman』. Is it perhaps, because she looks as if cosplaying as an elegant, young lady?

「You see, over here her body line is a bit plump, so frills quite suit her. This kind of fashion is only suitable for those who have a slender body. The appeal of this lady can't be defeated by the frills. In fact, she looks are overkill.」(Light: the frills is boosting her beauty to a frightening degree)

Even though the clerk is explaining her coordination, none of it even enters my head at all.

My eyes were completely glued on Ayla and Amy.

「U-umm… Master, d-does this meet your satisfaction…?」

「I'm sorry. I'm not familiar with these clothes, so I left everything up to the clerk's recommendation, since I thought that none of this would even look good on me…」

「That's not true at all!! This suits the two of you very well!!!」

I praised them in full force. To be honest, Ayla's clothes suit her so well. I'm too impressed.

A new side to Amy can also be seen, for her new clothes.

I just have to tell them what I think. It's that simple.

I kept on praising them, and told the clerk that we want to buy those clothes.

「Are you going to return back with those clothes?」 (Light: The clerk is asking them whether they want to change out of their new clothes or not.)

Although I said that it was okay to return back without changing to avoid further hassle, both of them simply couldn't nod in agreement with me.

「These clothes, are for the date with master.」

So I have been told. Though, I didn't feel sad at all. I went over to the clerk and asked her to bag the new clothes.

Tomorrow, is the day for my date with Ayla. Let’s gather our fighting spirit, and give it our best!

Chapter 31

「Ayla, I've kept you waiting.」

When I arrived at the promised place earlier than the promised time, I found that Ayla had been already waiting there.

「No problem, I'd also just arrived.」

Earlier I was informed of our promised meeting place. I was trying to get as close as I could to Ayla's departure time.

Watching Ayla, standing there in a dress and wearing a straw hat, still makes me gasp.

Despite us staying at the same inn, I was told that our meet spot was somewhere outside.

Last night, I purposely had us leave the inn and did not return until the meeting time. Although, we're slightly overdoing it, Ayla, believed this was something I desired.

「Good morning, Master.」

「Ayla, that's not right」

For a moment Ayla was startled and she blushed, when saw her.

「Good morning… Hibiki.」

「Yeah, good morning, Ayla.」

To address me as her equal that was also one of the promises for today's date. I asked her to called by my first name. It seems, I yearned for a meeting differently from how we first met. If Ayla disliked it, then I won't force her.

However, Ayla accepted it while feeling a bit of shyness.

When I called out to her, as her escort, she reveals a big smile on her face.

「Let's go to the Monster Tamer's Guild!」

I held out my right hand, Ayla simply stared at it, before she timidly presents hers. Somehow it was mistaken for a handshake… I grabbed Ayla's right hand, and we looked at each other.

「Ayla, It's about time we head out.」

I released Ayla's hand, after feeling satisfied from gazing at her. But somehow, Ayla looked extremely lonely. So, I immediately held her left hand.

As we're walking along the main street, the warmth of her hands are transmitted to mine (right hand).

The Monster Tamer's Guild is located near the east gate. We walked down the main road that lead towards the east gate.

Ayla and I remained silent all due to tension. I can't let it be this way, and so I resolved myself and started a conversation.

「I'm a bit sleepy. I was so excited yesterday, that I couldn't get a wink of sleep.」

「I-I was also unable to sleep because I was so excited!!」

Ayla responds to my small-talk. She answers in high vigor, almost shouting.

The conversation that followed went along smoothly, due to the tension between us became a bit loose. We talked about the Monsters tamed by Ayla, or the story about how Duo and Luo were worrying about each other. And even about how Ayla caused Ruby to oversleep today.

「Here, is the Monster Tamer's Guild.」

The Guild is located alongside the Walls of the East gate.

It's larger compared to the Adventurer's Guild and the Magician's Guild. The reception desks, alongside the main building and the ranches, within the plaza were surrounded by fences. There are also three barns facilities managed by the Monsters, directly.

We are now heading toward the reception desk. The interior of the building, aside from the many Monsters inside, wasn't much difference compared to the Adventurer's Guild and the Magician's Guild.

We've brought along Ruby, on our long-awaited date, since we are going to the Monster Tamer's Guild. It a matter of appearances, although

Ruby may be a just a big slime, it is best to take a Monster with us. Yup, this way, they shouldn't take us lightly.

As we check out the Monsters within the barn, from the reception desk, we saw a familiar face.

「Eh? Hibiki? Fancy meeting you here.」

「Feryu, what are you doing in a place like this?」

「I've come here to buy a Monster, for Copper.」

Fenryu points behind me. I turned around, and saw that Copper was filling out something at the reception desk.

「I'm on my way to look at the Monsters that are on sale.」

Taking a hold of this chance, we happily asked her permission if we could accompany them as well.

「No problem. We're also in your debt, anyways, you cured Nico's injury.」

「Oh, about that, how is Nico's condition?」

「There's no danger because the wound has closed. However, her physical strength is still restrained due to the poison. At the moment, she's resting at the inn. Come to think of it, do you know the whereabouts of Lux's Party? We're also indebted to them, so I want to give them my thanks. I haven't seen them at the Adventurer's guild at all.」

「Lux's Party is imposing on the Church at the moment.」 //Light: Means they're staying there.//

「The Church? Ahh, Baara is a Shinto Priest after all.」

The reason is because of the K.Y. Sister, but I kept that to myself.

「The Church, huh? If possible, I don't really want to go to the Church. This is getting troublesome.」

Feryu seems to dislike the Church.

「Oh well, now I know their whereabouts. Thanks Hibiki.」

「Don't sweat it.」

We're now following Feryu and Copper into the barns.

Inside, we saw various Monsters chained up. Goblins, Orcs, Sharp Wolves, and numerous other Monsters that we didn't know about.

「Well then, let's get a Monster that's both easy to train and cheap.」

Feryu began taking a look at the Monsters while consulting various things with Copper.

「Is there any Monster that piqued your interest?」

I asked Ayla. Currently, Ayla's possesses four Monsters which are: Ruby, Duo, Ruo, and Queen.

I heard that Monster Tamers are able to employ 5 Monsters as their limit. Buying Ayla a fifth subordinate Monster seems good.

「I'm sorry, but there isn't anything that's clicking at the moment.」

「Well, you don't have to force yourself. It's not a pressing matter to get another Monster, at the moment.」

I replied to Ayla with a smile while petting Ruby who came up to my feet.

「Gyahahaha! Coming here with only a single Slime as a Monster companion, what do you mean by 'not having a need for a new Monster'?」

When we turned around, there are three villainess looking guys laughing.

Apparently, they overheard our conversation. But I don't care, so I just ignored them.

「Oi, you, why are you ignoring us?!」

One of them tries to grab my shoulder. I dodged. The man felt offended, and started shouting.

「The hell, don't get ahead of yourself!!」

With a ‘oh well’ feeling, I side-stepped to cover Ayla with my back while glaring back at the man that I just dodged.

The man looked surprised to see me glaring back at him, even though he has the number advantageous.

「You shitheads are newcomers, right? You do know that there’s a regulation here that says that newbies, introducing themselves by participating in a Monster battle!」

There’s no such regulation here. Even if there was, the Guild management it not common thugs. These guys obviously don’t have the authority to.

「I’m the Monster Tamer. Hibiki is not related to this!」

Ayla steps away from my back, and stood between the men and myself.

「Hehe, is that so? Then big sister, let’s have fun together!」

Although I tried to stop Ayla, she followed the man without being afraid.

Feryu heard the commotion and then inquired about what’s happening. I answered that Ayla is about to go through a Monster battle.

「Are you going to be fine? That man is a well-known Monster Tamer around here.」

「Well, we'll somehow manage.」

I'm not worried about this battle at all.

「Ahh, I see. I've seen your Armor Mantis, so I'm sure it won't be easily defeated.」

The Armor Mantis seems to have a high evaluation, since, it's covered with a light yet strong shell. It also has a sickle with a high offensive power. Furthermore, Armor Mantis are able to fly lowly, so they're very excellent.

「Well, today we only brought Ruby.」

「Ruby…You mean that slime?! You won't be able to win with that!!」

「Is that so? I think it will do fairly well though.」

With that being said, we move to the Plaza. Within the plaza was a dueling field, surrounded by a simple, already prepared fense.

「The battle will be Five vs Five. It'll end when all Monsters are unable to continue the battle.」

5 vs 5, seems to be the standard battle method in Monster battles.

I'm sure that he already overheard from our previous conversation about how many Monsters we had brought with us.

It's 5 vs 5 because the limit for a Monster's tamer is 5 Monsters. What a dirty guy.

「Quickly prepare your Monsters.」

「Even without you mentioning it.」

Ruby goes to Ayla's feet upon her call.

The man brought out five Orcs, with their average levels being 5. The strongest one was level 8. They're not anything special…

「Oi oi, you're only going to be sending out one Slime? It seems that the victor has already been decided before the battle even begun.」

The man and his group started to laugh vulgarly.

「Because this child will suffice enough.」

Ayla seemed very confident. Although, Ayla was unable to see their stats, Ruby perhaps is able to roughly understand the Orcs abilities through【Selection】.

「Hoo, If you're that confident, then why don't we bet on something?」

「Sure. I'll win anyways.」

「Alright, then, if you were to lose, then you'll follow anything we say today!」

「...Then, if I were to win, all of you will give me your money and equipment.」

「Sure, that's fine. I'll make sure to cherish you all night long!!」

The man walked away as soon as their chatter ended.

「Are you alright with that? That girl is going to get broken, you know?」

「It'll be fine.」

Feryu is looking at Ayla anxiously.

I also looked at Ayla, and our eyes locked.

She happily waved her hands to me, which looked extremely lovely.

A Guild's official is going to be the referee, and he seemed to be fair. I wondered how were they able to set up the duel arena this quickly.

「Alright then, the two of you. As to not leave any grudges, start!」

All of the Orcs immediately started charging as soon as the start signal was given.

Probably, because they intend on finishing it in a single blow.

However, Ayla and Ruby dealt with it calmly.

First, they had planned to interfere with the Orcs' movements by

located the one with the skill【Leader】. And with【Selection】, the leader of the Orcs was quickly discovered. A part of Ruby's body then transformed into a tentacles whip, and attacks the Orc.

The Orc Leader was blown away into the duel arena's fence without even getting a chance to react, and passes out.

The Orcs who lost their leader were shaken, and were simply too flustered to attack. Ruby easily restrained them.

After the first Orc fainted by getting whipped, the battle ended within less of five minutes after it began.

「I-Impossible… What the hell is happening?!」

「Ahahaha… As expected of a member from【Annihilation】. It seems that I was worried over nothing.」

Feryu is the only one laughing within the crowd of spectators.

「Alright then, it's my win. As we've agreed earlier, hand over all of your money and equipment.」

「D-dammit all, Don't joke around with me!」

「Y-yeah! Like hell we'll do it!!」(Pandu: the gang refused to strip off)

It seems like they're planning on not keeping their promise. I went ahead and talked with the Guild's official who became the judge.

「Those people, they're planning to break the promise that they made before the battle began. Can you do anything about it?」

Although the Guild's official gave me a complex glace, he still went ahead and spoke with the defeated man. After that, the men gave up and handed over all of their money and equipment.

「Good work Ayla. Ruby too, was amazing.」

The tentacle whip that Ruby used earlier, was something he practices after becoming a Gourmet Slime.

Ruby didn't have any attacking methods when he became a Gourmet Slime, so I taught him to do a tentacle whip.

The most significant change that he experienced after evolving into a Gourmet Slime, was his volume and elasticity.

The tentacle whip is the best method of attack, because it combines both of the new aspects.

「It's all thanks to the attack method that Hibiki taught him.」 (Light: I've been using 'him' a lot. Just want to make sure, Ruby's gender isn't yet known…)

Feryu is looking at Ruby with great interest.

「Doesn't this slime seem a bit different?」

「It's a normal Red Slime.」

「But, when I think about it, it seems to have grown bigger than the last time I've seen it.」

「We were also surprised when it suddenly became this size overnight.」

That wasn't a lie, because we truly were surprised on that night.

「Hmm…I guess stuff like that can happen.」

In the end, we sold the equipment taken from the men to the Guild.

Just thinking about wearing the equipment of such fellows is unpleasant, and giving those equipment to Ayla is even more of an unpleasant thought.

「Well, let's just think of it as striking a fortune.」

We decided to leave due to our surroundings becoming noisy right after the Monster battle. Feryu group still hasn't finished shopping, so, we part ways with them.

「We'll be staying in this town for while, so if you need anything, Just leave a message at the Adventurer's Guild.」

We exited the Guild while being wrapped in clamor. A considerable amount of time seemed to have passed, however, the restaurants are still filled with customers.

「We won't be able to eat peacefully like this. U~n, oh right.」

I held Ayla's hand as we went off the main street. We came upon a big street after advancing a bit.

「This street is filled with stalls. I found this street the other day, so let's grab something to eat from here.」

「Yes, Hibiki.」

We bought some food from a street stall to satisfy our hunger. Among them, the most appealing to us was big chicken skewers.

「Is it delicious, Ayla?」

「Yes, it's very delicious. The taste of the meat and the seasonings' are completely different than the dinner we had the other day. It's also my first time eating from a shop like this.」

It seems Ayla doesn't know about food stalls.

「I see, street food is quite delicious, but their eating manners aren't that great.」 (Light: You got to eat with yer hands! no chopsticks…)

When walked away from the street's stall that was near the vicinity of our inn. It seems the day is almost over. We, can see the evening's setting sun. As we approached the Silver Cup, Ayla became less talkative. (Light: Silver Cup = Inn.)

She might be aware that it's the end of our date.

「Well then Ayla, the Silver Cup is already in view.」

「…Yes, umm… Master.」

「If Ayla wants, then I can spend a little more time with you. Is that alright?」

「A, yes, Hibiki.」

Ayla answered happily. I also want to spend some more time Ayla.

We passed the Silvercup and entered the sideroad again. After walking for ten minutes we reached, the ramparts, the last destination of our date.

There, we found stairs leading to the top. It's possible to go up the ramparts if we paid a certain fee.

After paying the fee, we went up the stairs.

「Uwaa, it's amazing.」

Ayla said as she stepped into the rampart.

In front of our eyes is the forest extended into the horizon, alongside the evening sun.

We can see the full view of the forest that stretched on, since, the rampart is near the West Gate's side.

The reflection of the sunset dyes the scenery a vivid color, as if the highlight, in the autumn leaves.

I the degenerate is feeling completely guilty. In this situation, I couldn't help but want to push down the boss (Ayla) who's wearing her elegant

attire.

Oh well, when the night comes, I'll make my advances on Ayla.

「Always being able to return from the forest safely, is because of you, Ayla. For everything, thank you.」

While saying that, I passed a small box from my pocket to Ayla.

Ayla received the small box, she appeared puzzled as if she did not understanding what to make of it.

「I wonder, what's inside?」

Without a doubt, my face is bright red. Still, the evening sun probably concealed my complexion.

Ayla timidly opened the small box. When she saw its content, she froze for but an instant. And then looked at me with complete surprise.

「M-master... This is...」

She was so surprised, that she returned to using Master.

「It's a Magic Gem that has yet to store Maryoku.」

This time around, I used the chance of a date to give this Magic Gem to Ayla. The earring that Kuesu gifted me is fitted onto my ear.

This is the big favor I asked Toto to prepare. I went to Thill's shop late last night to receive it, though I somehow ended up with a heated discussion about equipment with Thill that lasted until morning.

Although, it may not be a very good choice to express my gratitude and affection to Ayla.

「Let's make it into an accessory later. Looking around shops today won't be bad either.」

I waited for a reply, but there is no response from Ayla.

This is bad…did I hope for too much? I watched Ayla in worry.

Ayla started crying with a crumpled face.

「Thaa-aank yuuuu, master~ weee—-n」

It was bad enough to make her start crying, huh!! Is what I thought in panic, but when I took another look at her, it seems she's shedding tears of joy.

I drew closely to Ayla and held her as I gently stroke her back with a 'pon pon' sound, in order to settle her down.

「Now~ now~ It's alright~」

I kept comforting her until she finished crying. By the time Ayla settled down, the sun had completely dropped down beyond the horizon.

Chapter 32

I am watching the flow of people on the main street, while feeling slightly drowsiness, as I wait for my companion to arrive for our date.

Yesterday, on the previous date, I made the other party (Ayla) waiting. Therefore, I leave Thill's shop early than usual.

Although there are a lot of people on the main street, compared to before, it had settled down.

「Sorry to keep you waiting, Hibiki.」

At the meeting spot, the person I had been waiting for arrived five minutes later.

「Good morning Amy, I also just arrived.」

「Really? I thought, I had mistaken the promised time?」

Lucky, I arrived at the meeting place ahead of time. It seems that Amy was planning to arrive before me, and thus she thought, she had mistaken the meet-up time.

「Sorry Amy, I couldn't wait for the date with you.」

「I'm glad to hear it, I would feel bad if I had kept Hibiki waiting for too long.」

「Waiting is also ‘one’ part of a date in my country.」

「What do you mean?」

Amy understood the feeling of a long awaited date, but she doesn’t understand the enjoyment of waiting for the date to begin. I gave her an easy-to-understand explanation.

「I was looking forward to the date with Amy. For example, I thought about: where would we go?, what would we do?, and what topics would we talk about? When thinking about all the possibilities, I became happy. I really am looking forward to the start of our date.」

Amy gave a slight nod.

「Well, let’s go look around the shops in the main street.」

Amy noticed my intention, when I presented my right hand, she held my hand without hesitation.

At first, I felt a little disappointed by her reaction. But when I saw Amy’s reddened face, I couldn’t help be think, she sure is cute.

「Are we going to the main street? What kinds of shops are we going to?」

For the time being, I proposed to look around the main street. Amy misunderstood my intentions.

She seems uncomfortable with merely window shopping.

「Although, I do feel bad for the shops, but wouldn't happily chatting about what items to buy be fun?」

「Will we also visit shop with inventory we have no need for?」

「It's the same as what I mentioned before, it similar to the enjoyment of waiting. It'll be fun to simply look around with Amy. If there is something you wants, I'll buy it for you.」

「I see, there is more to a date than I imagine」(TN: Date is a serious business)

「There is no such thing, after all, as long as two people enjoy it, it's called date.」

We walk toward the main street while happily chatting.

Along the main street I see rows of accessories, and shops that are sell miscellaneous goods line-up in rows. Now that think about it, why is this called window shopping. There are no windows?

「This shop has a lot of miscellaneous goods, there is even silver tableware.」

「So many amazing items. I couldn't possibly craft them.」(TN: Amy felt inferior)

Amy muttered while examining the silver tableware.

The silver tableware seems to be the work of an Alchemist. Normal silver tableware could be made by processing metal, but since the decoration is complex, it's better to leave it to an Alchemist.

「Create it? Amy, you can't?」

Amy is capable of crafting anything that a normal alchemist can't make.

「I can create most practical items, with similar functions, but I am not good at crafting items with a lot of decoration.」

「Is that so.」

Certainly, up until now Amy only crafted items, without complex decorations, such as potions and equipment.

「Amy, do you want to try to craft this?」

「Yeah, someday, I want to try crafting it at least once.」

After listening to her, I decided to bring Amy to that place. A while ago, I had something prepared for her at the workshop.

「Okay, want to try making it?」

「Eh!? Where are we going?」

「Save your excitement until after we arrive.」

I lead Amy to that place while still holding her hand.

「Welcome, oh it's Hibiki. Hello, Amy. Is it just you and Amy today?」

Last night, at Thill's shop, I had him assist me with a project.

「Um, I'm on a date. Is Thill here? I want to borrow the workroom.」

「Dad is still sleeping, it seems he spoke with you till very late last night.」

Last night, we talked about the types of armaments used in my country. Well, at least what I could vaguely recall.

「Well then, can I borrow the workroom?」

「Sure why not? I'm sure dad won't refused if you're the one asking Hibiki」

「I don't want to be unreasonable, well then, I'll borrow the workroom for awhile.」

When I arrived at the workroom, I took out a box and placed it beside the wall. I call Amy over to the worktable and place something down in

front of her.

「Now then, Amy, try making a plate.」

「Eh? What is this? It's neither wood nor silver? Am I suppose make a plate with this?」

What I placed in front of Amy is『White Clay』.

Ever since the dinner party at the church, it has been bothering me. In this world, there seems to only be tableware made of either wood or silver, but nothing else.

Earthenware (pottery) doesn't exist at all. I had an idea, to try crafting other pottery with alchemy.

If I'm not mistaken, in the western countries, Alchemist are somehow related to the creation of white porcelain.

From there, the clay is necessary for the material so I ask Ruby to use【Selection】to make it. I tried make an『Imitate』to the best of my knowledge.

We tried various things, such as kneading the clay with ash and water. Or mixing in powder made from Magic Stone. Well, it won't be problem if we fail on this experiment anyway.

「Now, Amy, try crafting a new tableware with this.」

「What could I possible make with this stuff?」

「Well let's see, the master craftsmen in my country could make tableware that was apprised to be more valuable than jewels with this

stuff.」

「I-I won't be able to make such things.」

「It's alright, I believe Amy won't give-up easily.」

Timidly holding-up the white clay, Amy used【Item Create】.

「Okay, let's wait until the liquid drains.」

I let the『Imitation』clay dry.

Amy focuses and uses【Item Create】, the clay shines brightly and then light dissipates.

When the light subsided, there is a mass of dry and smooth white clay.

「As I thought, there is no way I can make an amazing plate.」

I examine the mass of clay. If I had to say, the vitrify process has gone quite well. Although the lump of clay form wasn't altered by【Item Create】.

「Amy, give it another try. Let's focus on the smooth parts, like over there. We're just one step away! Next, you'll try to create the plate with【Item Create】.」

「U-understood, I'll work harder.」

I, continued to chat with Amy while working on our plate. Although, my work is beautiful it is still a bit distorted. The one created by Amy was beautifully made probably due to her dexterity.

「Somehow, it started to become fun.」

「Is that so, I'm glad」

While coversating with Amy, I drew a picture on the plate.

「What are you doing?」

「This is? When it's glazed, the picture will remain on the plate.」

「That's cheating!! I want to try it too.」

Afterwards, patterns were drawn using a thin cord. Amy said I am crafty, because I made decorations in the clay.

I've been called out for cheating, by Amy, because I had used a thin cord to draw patterns on the clay.

「It's cheating because only Hibiki knows about it!」

I don't know how many times Amy said that I was cheating. Everytime, she says it, her expression is cute. I also want to tell her that she's cheating.

「Well, my best regards, Amy」

「…Yes!!」

With vigor, the item creation skill was used to renew the plates. The clay materials was splendidly turned into white porcelain.

「You did it, Amy!!」

「Am I really the one who made this?」

Amy carefully touches the curve of the plate. She confirmed the feeling with her tip of finger, and then slowly lifted the plate with both hands.

The plate that she holding is the one create. She flips the plate around and examines the drawn picture.

「Thank you, Master. I can't believe that I am able to make a beautiful plate such as this.」

Amy felt so excited, that she reverted to calling me Master.

「No problem, it's all good. Oh yeah, do you want to appraise this plate at the Alchemist Guild?」

The Alchemist Guild has always encouraged people to create new things. Therefore, there is a section made in order to appraise the new items created by the alchemists. That section can estimate the value of the new things they created.

If the value were to be appraised by the Alchemist Guild, then it's price would be considerably trusted by other Guilds and merchants.

「Is that okay? We still need to submit a sample in order to register the product.」

「Why not? Even if someone notices the『White Clay』, they won't be able to reproduce it」

To appraise a new product within the Alchemist's Guild, we need to submit a sample first. So there is a possibility where, that sample would be reconstructed.

In this world, a patent does not exist. So, it's only natural for a product to be copied.

However, a new product can monopolize the sales up until the copies are released. After all, the products registered in the Guild are endless.

Crest's【Jade Fabric】is a perfect example of successful monopolization of the sales. After it was appraised and set at a high value by the Alchemist's Guild.

「Certainly, it's impossible, because the clay will often get so slimy.」

「At first glance, this might seem to be more like a mineral.」

A while later, Thill came to the workshop while we were talking about

the Guild's appraisal.

「Oh, you guys came, huh.」

「Good morning, Thill.」

「Good morning.」

Me and Amy replied with a greetings, and yet, he only returned a 'Yeah'.

「What's with that plate, it has an interesting color.」

Thill noticed the plate on the worktable.

「Yeah, it's the new plate that Amy created.」

「Hee, the young lady seems to be an Alchemist with a great skill.」

「S-such a praise..」

「No need to be modest. I never saw this kind of plate, it's kind of amazing」

「We're planning to submit it for appraisal at the Alchemist's Guild.」

「Yeah, doesn't it seem like it'll get a great value?」

「Do you think so?」

「It's very beautiful, the Nobles seem like they'll love it.」

We got Thill's approval, even if it doesn't seem anything reliable.

In the end, we spent the whole morning creating plates.

To thank her for lending us the workroom, I gave several plates to Toto. Toto looked quite troubled while accepting them.

「These plates seem very valuable, it's kind of scary to use them…」

I explained to her that she doesn't need to worry about it, and then we exited the shop.

After we went out of Thill's place, we had lunch before heading to the Alchemist's Guild.

We ate our meal slowly since the restaurant was still empty due to it being still early noon.

The Alchemist's Guild is like a shop when compared with the Adventurer's Guild.

In one corner of the Guild, they were selling items for each and every Job Class. Things for the members of, the Magician's Guild and the Monster Tamer's guild, could also be seen.

However, the main focal point of the Alchemist's Guild is selling materials, so it also has a cash register function like the other Guilds.

「Is there anything you want?」

「Let's see, I want some magic medicine materials.」

「Is that so, but let's just keep the amount reasonable. We're only here today to view things out; next time, let's have everyone come along with us.」

Because Ruby isn't here, I'll have to carry everything. For those who don't have an adventurer's bag, they seriously need to carry everything on their own.

「Understood.」

Amy and I are facing the shelf, which contained all the materials.

Although there was an Alchemist in front of the shelf, we didn't worry about anything and just talked about what kind of materials we're going to buy.

「The sap of an Auraune can make a potion that recovers Maryoku.」

「Is that so? Then, it'll be really necessary since I'll be using more attack magic in the future.」

「Yes, but compared to the stamina recovery potion and the healing potion, the materials are quite expensive.」

「The materials are expensive? Is the magic recovery potion even more expensive?」

「It’s ve~ry expensive, since magicians can use it as their last resort.」

While we were talking to each other, the alchemist from earlier was watching us.

No, not us. He is looking at Amy.

「Do you need something?」

I reacted to the man by asking him, as I stared at him.

「You, you are Amy, right? Why you are in here?」

The man started talking to Amy, completely disregarding me.

Amy was surprised when she saw the man’s face, it seems that he is her acquantance.

「Fred, why are you on this town?」

「I, came here to deliver some items to the Guild in this town. I was forced to stay here because I couldn’t find an adventurer to escort me back. Therefore, I regretted undertaking this job. Why am I, the son of Bull, doing this kind of peasant’s work?」

Fred seems to be a noble. It might be because of the rescue party that was sent to Bureto, that he wasn’t able to find any escorts.

「Speaking of which, why are you here? You were deep in-debt, and should have been sent to an excavation site.」

The man, or rather, Fred, seemed to have become annoyed just remembering the situation at Buero, hysterically laughed at us.

「Yes, but Master bought me.」

When she said that, Fred finally took a look at me. And then, started grinning because he noticed the slave's mark at the back of Amy's hand.

「Hee, you're pretty lucky to have a person buying someone like you.」

「Yeah, I can't express how grateful I am.」

Amy seems like she didn't notice the unpleasant laugh from Fred. Amy, who is vulnerable toward malicious individuals, started to explain in-details about her situation after becoming a slave. (Light: It means that she thinks all people are good–the best prey for scammers)

By chance, I noticed malice from this man who didn't seem to like Amy's current situation. There is a possibility that this man took part in Amy's incident, and based on his attitude, the chance is relatively high. (Light: Bad guy wants our cute Amy to suffer .__.)

「Surely, he has to be blind, because no decent human being would buy someone like you.」

「Let’s leave it at here, shall we.」

I intrude into their conversation. Amy seemed like she wanted to say something, but I stopped her for talking, so it became quiet.

「W-who are you!? I am talking with Amy right n-now. D-don’t disturb us!」

Fred snapped at me.

「You’ve been making fun of my belongings, so there’s no way I’ll keep my silence. Amy is an excellent Alchemist, so she probably became an eyesore for people like you.」

「W-what?! There’s no evidence for that! There should be no evidence that I was even involved!」

The bait got eaten. What an interesting catch.

「Huh? What are you even talking about? Evidence? I was just saying that Amy is an excellent Alchemist.」

「Ugu」

The man turned silent when he realized his mistake, and then left in a hurry.

「Good grief, are all the children of nobles stupid by default?」

「Master, I'm sorry.」

「Why does Amy have to apologize?」

「Master was bad-mouthed because of me.」

Ah, it seems about what that fellow said earlier.

「Don't worry, Amy really is excellent, I've already seen it with my own two eyes.」

「But-」

「Ah~ Then, let's prove Amy's excellency.」

I took Amy's hand as we went to the Acceptance section of the Guild.

「Sorry to intrude, But I want to ask for an appraisal.」

「Yes, please show the item that needs to be appraised」

The plate was uncovered from within several coiled clothes from the leather pouch.

「Wait a moment, please be careful since it's fragile.」

「Err, what is this?」

「It's a plate.」

「Yes, I can see that. What I'm wondering about, what is it made of?」

「That's a secret.」

「U-understood. Do you mind waiting for a little bit?」

「Sure, we don't mind」

The plate was intrusted to the acceptance staff and we were then told to wait in the waiting room. After 10 minutes have passed, a 40-years old uncle suddenly came into the waiting room in a panic.

「Who were the ones who sent a plate to be appraised?」

Because there are other people who are waiting for their appraisal result, the staff might not know who was an item's creator.

「It's us.」

I raised a hand while answered the old man.

「I see, then please come with me for a moment.」

We were guided to the reception room inside the guild, the old man seems to be the head of this Guild's branch. His name is Frank; it seems like his interest was piqued by the plate, which we brought to the Alchemist who at active duty. (Light: Was debating whether to stick to the raw with 'Active duty' or 'working at the moment.' I could have gone with a mix between the two, but decided to stick to the raw.)

「How were you able to obtain this mysterious plate?」

「It's made by an Alchemist. Although, the way of creating it is a secret.」

「I want to meet that person!」

「She's in front of you.」

And then I pointed at Amy. The old man directed a blank stare at me.

「Did this girl create it?」

「Yes.」

「That's wonderful!! The young alchemists who are overflowing with a talent are always welcomed!!」

Frank took Amy's hand and shook it up and down. I pulled Frank's hand away. Any more body contact isn't allowed.

「Oops, sorry for my impoliteness. It's not appropriate for someone of my age to get this excited. Young lady, are you alright?」

「Ye-yes, I'm fine.」

「Glad to hear that. By the way, how many more plates can you create?」

There's no need to honestly talk about everything. When you apply the rarity of the product, it's price will skyrocket.

「Let's see. Honestly, we still need to collect the materials… How many do you need?」

「Hmm… In my opinion, nobles will immediately flock to buy this plate. There's also an acquaintance of mine who collects such tablewares as well.」

As for the concrete number, it'll be 20 plates as one set, the whole order is five sets. We will be delivering one set within a week as a sample to the customers. The 4 remaining sets will have to be delivered within one month.

And then, Frank asked for 20 sets to be prepared, because they would be sold almost immediately.

「As for the price, how does 10 gold coins sound for a single set?」

Although I was quite surprised at the price, but if you think about the rarity of utensil value, then it might make sense since this might be the first white porcelain in this world.

Although it's some messed up calculations, but Ayla's price was two gold coins, while Amy's was 11 gold coins. It might be so expensive because of the demand by aristocrats and rich collectors.

「Alright, we agree with that price.」

「Okay. Oh, and please, you can request anything without any reservation. Although it won't be free, but I'll be able to help out a little.」

「Ahh, that'll save me.」

Oh boy, even though he had the intentions to specify the necessary materials in order to figure out how it's made and monopolize its commodity. But still, it's a fact that he'll be helpful. Still, it's not like there's a big demand on the materials needed to create the plates, so I'm quite relieved.

「By the way, what do we call this plate?」

「We called it White Porcelain.」

「Oh, I see, then allow me to call it that as well.」

The unexpected business was thus came to a conclusion. Even though the date with Amy was interrupted, I expressed my gratitude and apology to Amy.

「Not at all, not at all. I am very happy.」

Amy seems very happy that the white porcelain was evaluated as a “work of art”.

「Is that so? then it’s good」

The business conversation took a lot of time, so our vicinity has already darkened.

On the way back to the Silvercup alongside Amy, I remembered the present. I went to embrace Amy from behind, and passed her a small box, that which contains a Magic Gem.

「You’re also giving me one…?」 (Light: giving the same gifts to two different girls…)

Amy seems to have noticed that Ayla already received a Magic Gem from me. Even though I told Ayla to keep it a secret that I was also going to give one to Amy.

「When she returned, she kept on looking at a box while grinning unpleasantly. Even if I didn’t want to, I’ve been forced to notice it.」 (Light:

I guess Amy was jealous~ purin purin~ Jelly jelly~)

Amy laughingly answered me. I cleared up my throat and said thanks to Amy for today.

「Amy, thank you for everything. Without the items created by Amy, then it'll be tough to live on day by day.」

「No, I am only able to come this far thanks to Hibiki.」

That, would be Amy's trust toward me.

「Even if that's true, I'm really glad that Amy is with me. As a Master, I might not be reliable, but please accept my best regards toward the future!」

「…Yes, if you are fine with someone like me, then I'll gladly follow you anywhere.」

Amy firmly grasps my hand. In return, I also hug her back tightly.

Chapter 33

The next morning, I suddenly awoke.

「Good morning, Master」

「Good morning. What will we be doing today?」

「Good morning. Today, I plan to go to the market. But first, there is something I need to talk about with the two of you.」

'A talk about something?' The two girls tilted their heads with a puzzled expression.

「Thanks to Amy, we have a surplus in funds. I want to have a discussion about how we should divide the money we've obtained.」

Ayla will also be receiving a share, because without Ruby, we wouldn't be able to make the materials for the clay. Since, Amy is the maker of the white porcelain, she will definitely receive a share as well.

「I will always be Master's slave, so please use the gold as you wish.」

I heard from Ayla that Demi-human slaves and life-long-slaves are forbidden to own property.

On that note, I direct the topic to only Amy; she tries to decline too.

「I created them as Master has advised me. A share isn't necessary.」
(TN: create white porcelain)

「No, it's nothing like that.」

It's only possible to make it because Amy is so skilled. Oh yeah, Amy is a debt slave.

She can become free from slavery if she's able to pay her debt.

Amy shows a sad expression while nodding when she heard my explanation.

「Well then, Amy's share is one gold coin per set.」

After that we disagreed about the share. I offered her half in the beginning, but she stubbornly refused.

Amy reluctantly consented to one gold after I persuaded her that I would not go any lower.

I got ready and went to the market.

In the market, high quality goods won't be put on the shop shelves. The reason is, that they wouldn't be able to arrange lower quality goods without it looking messy.

Various miscellaneous goods were on display. Goods such as weapons or anything that could be used as protection from monsters were being sold.

「This is awesome, isn't it flourishing more than the Guilds?」

「That's right. It's because they sell things that the Guilds can't get their hands on.」

The Guilds only handle items which have a stable supplier. As for the buying and selling of unusual materials, it seem that they are being monopolized by the Guild's executives.

Although, they don't seem to make money and they only get customers by personal referrals.

Well, there seems to be some serious internal circumstances too.

When we look around the market, there are a lot of materials which are not available in the Guilds, as Amy said earlier. We continue shopping in high spirits, looking at things we've never seen before.

Ruby is with us today, so it'll be okay no matter how many items we buy.

「Onii-san, you're doing well. How about it, buy something from me」

When Amy was checking around, the shopkeeper from nearby shop called us.

「What kind of items do you sell?」

The man is grinning.

「This shop only sells living beings. We deal in slaves and Monsters.」

After listening to the explanation about the shop, I took a look the shop inventory. Indeed various Monsters were placed in the cages, where the slaves are arranged.

「Why, are the slaves and the Monsters treated the same?」

「Is this your first time in this kind of shop? Because there is no differences in managing monsters and slaves, so it's not uncommon to handle them together」

「Is that so?」

I replied to him, while checking the status around.

Villager, Beast Warrior, Sharp Wolf, Villager (Beastman), Swordsman (Human), Fighter (Beastman), Necromancer (Vampire), Scale Warrior (Demi-Human), Goblin, Orc, Maid (Human), The line-up is inconsistent.

I saw something strange in the mix.

「Necromancer?」

For the me, who is at the very center at the shop, I could see a cage that is almost hidden at the very back, that housed a Necromancer.

「Dear customer, I see that you have spotted the cage, but I must urge you to stop, for this fellow is…」

I went ahead and approached the Necromancer's cage. In the cage, there is a girl, wearing dirty tattered clothes. However, compared to the tattered clothes, the girl herself was even more dirty.

With a height of 170cm, she is taller than both Amy and Ayla. Her hair is also gray; the tattered clothes are unable to hide her feminine body.

Her face, even though it's dirty, is very beautiful.

「This fellow is really difficult to control. Even three other Monster Tamers were unable to discipline her for so long. She's been in the cage ever since.」

「Monster Tamer? Are Vampires categorize as a monster?」

「Yes, they are treated as Monsters around here. Customer, you seems to understand that she is a Vampire.」

To confirm what the shopkeeper said, I checked her status.

****

Zirconia Vlad Lv.18 Necromancer – 18 years old.

Skill

【Blood Sucking (Master)】

Drains the target's blood and stamina, to recover Maryoku of self.

Give target Skill【Blood Sucking (Servant)】. The target is inflicted with abnormal aliment【Vampire (Servant)】.

【Contract(Blood)】

Able to make a blood contract.

【Specter Magic】★★★

Able to use specter magic.

****

Indeed, is it because she is a vampire, that she has abilities related to blood? And also, the Necromancer's【Specter Magic】seems very strong.

While I'm watching the cage in interest, she directed a sharp glare from the inside.

As we are having a staring contest going between us for a while, Ayla and Amy approached me.

「Master, will you be buying this slave?」

Somehow, Amy showed a really sad expression. Ayla's expression also seemed to be almost crying. It seems that Ayla's expression was comparable to Amy's.

「Yeah, depends on the price.」

When she heard it, Amy's face became even darker. I wonder if Amy feels some sort of dejection because the number of companions will increase?

The shopkeeper ran toward me. He might have heard about my plan to buy Zirconia.

「I'd appreciate it if you were to buy this slave, since I'm ashamed that she remained unsold for a long time.」

「It's not decided yet. By the way, how much is her price?」

「Let's see, how about 2 golds?」

So cheap, I don't know how to feel about it, so I checked with Amy.

「Amy, this girl is a vampire. Are vampires classified as monsters?」

「Umm, I have heard that their treatment is different depending on the place, though I think that they're in the same situation as Demi-Humans」

Amy took a quick glance to Ayla.

「Where I lived, Vampires are categorized as Demi-Humans」

Vampires seem like a special race that are treated as either Monsters or Demi-Humans depending on the place.

However, when you hear the shopkeeper's story when he employed the Monster Tamers, and how they failed, I cannot help but think that they are ultimately Demi-Human.

Two golds for a slave is considerably cheap. It's the same amount as when I bought Ayla while she was still possessed with『Curse』.

2 golds is as cheap as the price of the monsters sold in the Monster Tamer's Guild.

Perhaps, it's a bit more expensive than a Goblin's price.

「It's good bargain, right?」

When I told to shopkeeper that I will buy her alongside a Demi-Human collar, the shopkeeper made face that's somewhat strange.

He asked another shopkeeper that was near Ayla and the rest. (Light: Meaning, he asked another shopkeeper to bring the collar.)

I bent in front of the cage and matched my line of vision with Zirconia's as soon as everything was prepared.

「Right now, I'll get you out from there, so please try not to resist.」

I keep staring at Zirconia for a while until she nodded slightly. I believe on her word and insert the key to open her cage.

On the next moment, I was thrown down by Zirconia from inside the cage.

「Stupid human, why should I necessarily follow your commands?」
(Light: She speaks in a baba-like. huehue. Also, I'm not getting paid enough to change this to Shakespearean. Not that I'm getting paid.)

She bites my neck while saying that. A sharp pain runs through my neck, as blood is being sucked from it.

「Kufufu, this fellow is mine now.」

She said that while moving away from on top of me while watching her surroundings.

「You two girls over there, I can see that you are the slaves under this servant. Hereafter, you will be following me as well.」

Zirconia directed a bewitching smile toward Ayla and Amy, but she

switched to an anger face while looking toward the shopkeeper.

「You did many severe things on me, don't expect to have a quick and painless death.」

The shopkeeper was blankly staring on with a 'Pokan' sort of feeling, not understanding the current situation at all.

「Oi, servant, until when are you going to be sleeping? Hurry up and wake up!」

Zirconia kicked my flank, because I remained fallen. Following her command, I stand up.

「First off, cut off that man's limbs, and make him kneel down before me!!」

While she was ordering me, I quickly attached the Demi-Human's collar from my pocket into Zirconia's neck while her guard was lowered.

「H-huh? What is the meaning of this!? You bastard, hurry up and take it off!」

「So annoying… Shut up.」

I flicked Zirconia's forehead with all of my might.

「Fugya!」

Zirconia made a weird sound and fell down. Her muscles might be weak because she spent a long time in the cage…

This vampire really did it, the first tackle caught me off guard.

Thank god I had already asked them to not raise a hand, no matter what happened to me.

「Master, are you really alright?」

「Yeah, i'm alright. She wasn't able to suck my blood.」

I told a blatant lie because the shopkeeper is still around. The reality is, the abnormal status has already been cured because of『Divine Protection』

「Impossible!? I should have already sucked your blood!!」(Light: Srsly. I like the way she talks in Japanese. Too bad I'm too lazy to turn into Shakespearean, no~? *Teases y'all*)

「Shut up.」

I flicked her forehead again because she gave out unnecessary information.

「Gyan!」

I took a look at her, she is trying her best at holding her watery eyes this time to avoid crying.

We should really leave this shop before she actually starts crying.

「I'm sorry for causing such a ruckus. Well then, I'll be buying this girl.」

「Alright~ Thanks for always~」 (Light: Rather than saying 'please come again' he said 'Thanks for always'.)

「Let me go, I am a high-class vampire clan! Like hell I'll be ordered around by a Human like you!!」

「Yeah yeah, Let's first go back to Inn and have you take a bath.」

「Bath!? With cold water? Hot water?」

「Which one would you want?」

「Hot water!!」

She seems pretty childish. Even though she is older than me.

Which reminds me, is it alright for her to be taken out under the light of sun in noon? Oh well, she seems so energetic, so it might be safe.

「I see, having a meal seems good. What do you want? Meat or fish?」

「Got it. Amy, I know it's troublesome, but please go buy clothes for this

fellow.」

「Y-yes. Understood.」

「Ayla, please help with washing this fellow.」

「Affirmative.」

Zirconia, who was promised a bath and a meal, obediently followed us to the Silvercup. Then, the two of us made sure to scrub her clean with hot water. (Light: He saw heerr naakeeeed)

30 minutes have passed, and the soap we were using in hand is gone. Zirconia finally became beautiful.

When we finished washing Zirconia, Amy came back with the bought clothes for Zirconia.

「So, why these type of clothes?」

The clothes that Amy bought are for gothic lolitas. I'm genuinely surprised that there is culture of gothic lolitas in this world.

The clothes' prices were one gold coin.

「I'm sorry, I ended up paying for them with the shopping money that you gave this morning. Please, cut it from my share of the reward from the white porcelain later」

Although I gave Amy a hefty amount of money for shopping this morning, I never expected that buying clothes would be one of the things that we'll end up needing.

「No problem, it's all good, Zirconia seems likes them anyways.」

「Umu, you have a good style. From now one, I'll leave choosing my attires to you.」

「Don't get too full of yourself. Amy, don't listen to what this fellow has said.」

We decided to eat in the dining room at the Silvercup's first floor because Amy has just returned.

When our dishes were carried out, Zirconia ate with terrifying speed.

Zirconia seems like an noble young lady with her gothic lolita outfit, but her table manners are pretty hectic.

「Fuu, I'm full.」

When the meal was finished, Zirconia lied in the bed in an arrogant manner.

「Well then, let's start with a question from myself. Why didn't my blood-sucking ability have an effect on you?」

「I'll answer that at a later time, after I trust you. For the time being, i'll tell you that it won't be effective no matter what you do. Oh, and it won't work on these girls either.」

「It can't be helped. I suddenly attacked you first earlier after all. Then,

how will I be treated from here on?」

「I'm an adventurer, so you will be joining my party. Of course, I'll guarantee your safety as much as possible.」

「Alright. Then what about my treatment? Are the bath and the meal, like today, are only for a special occasion? 」

「No, nothing of what you seen today is special. Well, the aside from your clothing. Other that, everything you've went through today is pretty much normal.」

「Is that so!! Then, lastly, why do you treat me so well even though you know that I'm vampire?」

「Did you know? I didn't really enjoy seeing you that dirty. And also, the meal you ate, is nothing but an inn's dinner. It's nothing special, anyone can eat something like that.」 (Light: He means that inn's food is so bland, that anyone would be able to eat it)

「Don't enjoy seeing me dirty?」 (Light: She actually just says 'Don't enjoy?' but that doesn't make much sense, now does it?)

Zirconia tilted her head in doubt.

「Yeah. Won't it be troublesome if we were to sleep in the same bed, with you being that dirty? For many things, won't that really be in the way?」 (Light: Many things, eh. Hibiki no ecchi~)

「Y-you plan on embracing me? I'm a vampire, you know!?」

「Ahh, is that no good?」

Zirconia fled into the bed hurriedly.

「Oh well.」

I heard Amy's voice while I was chasing Zirconia.

「Umm, Master, I-I am…」

Although the current situation is quite amusing, her appearance seems a bit strange.

「What is it, Amy?」

「Master, please don't throw me away!」

Eh? Why would I throw Amy away? I don't understand it. I decided to hear what Amy has to say.

Chapter 34

When I asked Amy what she meant, she repeatedly told me to not throw her away for she'll work even harder.

It couldn't be helped, as I held Amy I stroked her head and her back until she had calmed down.

Being surprised at Amy's state, Zirconia and Ayla watched over her worriedly.

I didn't understand, so after she had calmed down I carefully listened to Amy's story.

She took her time to gather her words and summarise the whole story.

The cause seems to be what was said by the foolish noble on yesterday's date.

[no decent person would buy someone like you.].

It tormented Amy, even though the matter was settled and during our date the mood was pleasant.

At the end of the date I told her I always wanted to be together with her. But apparently Amy became more and more anxious due to my behaviour today.

To begin with, this morning the matter about the share for the white porcelain, it seems she thought she will be thrown away after repaying

the debt to a certain degree.

A debt slave's debt is equal to the total amount of their purchasing price plus the amount of debt that they had previously amassed.

Once a 'debt slave' can pay off their debt, they will be liberated from slavery. Therefore, when a slave has almost paid off their debt the owner usually tries to resell them.

After settling one's own debt any connection (between master and slave) feels like it would disappear too.

Therefore, during the shopping in town, there was a strange tension in Amy where she went to buy up a huge amount of materials.

Even if it's a little, she used what little money she had too so she wouldn't have the money to buy her freedom.

Next was probably the purchase of Zirconia. It seems she thought that Zirconia was most likely her replacement.

Therefore, when I bought Zirconia she had a sad expression.

Me buying expensive high-class clothes for Zirconia is also another reason of her buying a huge amount of materials.

[So that's why you said『Please don't throw me away』? I have never thought about you feeling that way; I'm sorry Amy.]

Amy is still sniffling although she had already calmed down considerably.

[No, I do understand. I don’t know why I became so uneasy either.]

Maybe it was the meeting with the old Alchemist or perhaps Amy still has trauma with the goblins. Someway or another it weakened her mentally.

I feel guilty for making such a girl fight Monsters.

[What should I do?]

If I suggest to have Amy abstain from fighting Monsters, she might cry again.

What Amy is afraid of is that I have no need for her anymore. It’s that sort of thing.

[My Master, in that case, shouldn’t you make a positive bond like that beastman girl’s with this human girl?]

[Zirconia, I wouldn’t be so worried if that could easily be done.]

Is my bond with Ayla a life long slave?

[Zir will suffice, or I want to be called Coni.]

[Then, Zir]

[Umu. Master is err.. – was it ‘Amy’? – are you reluctant to have that sort of a relationship with her?]

Amy has a startled reaction. Don’t agitate her, please.

[There’s no way I wouldn’t like it. If it’s ok with Amy then I want us to always be together.]

[In that case, you should make a contract. I will see to it with my own eyes]

[Contract?]

[I am a vampire. My household’s [Blood Contract] is the highest form of all contracts].

Zir certainly has the skill [Contract (Blood)]. Although I had researched about it at a later stage, the contracts of this world seem to be enforced by various powers.

Even among those contracts, it appears that [Contract (Blood)] is a strong enforcement contract using each other’s blood. Even among the vampires there are only a small portion of them who own this contract. Therefore it has died out.

After sticking out her chest proudly, Zir brought Amy in front of me.

[Well then, what are the contents of the contract?]

Though I say so, I also think about the contents of the contract. A contract to resolve Amy's anxiety without hindering us.

[I swear not to release or sell Amy as long as I live.]

[I swear to be master's slave for my whole life.]

A small cut is applied to each other's fingers, our blood is mixed together and we each made our separate oath by ourselves. If one of the oaths were to be broken, the other oath will still be in effect.

[Umu, the contract is complete.]

I saw Amy's face. Amy gazed at the blood which flowed from her finger. Honestly, it's a bit scary. However, with this Amy will be able to calm down.

[Alright, tomorrow shall we go to Thill's place and pick up our equipment and work for the first time in a while?]

[Yes]

[We need to confirm how our new equipment feels]

[Oh yes! We have to confirm how it feels~]

I dragged Zir to bed whilst saying so.

[W-what!! With the conversation flowing like this, we are not going to sleep as it is?!]

[Refuse if you don't want to~ If you do I'll stop~]

I'll be with Zir tonight, as I thought that Amy crawled into bed.

[Shouldn't you also check how using me feels?]

Amy certainly got more assertive than before.

Ayla joined the war a bit late. Maybe she felt a little left out after Zir joining us and the blood contract with Amy.

[Ayla?]

[Le, let me mix in with you guys too!]

Ayla was originally assertive. Always speaking her mind.

However, three people included today's new recruit. Maybe I should prepare for a defeat.

[Alright!! I'll take on all of you!!]

[But I don’t even particularly…] (TN: She’s slurring her speech)

[It’s useless!!]

As a man, there are always times where you have to fight even if you know you will lose. This might be one of those times.

In the next morning, we arrived at Thill’s shop before I notice it.

Is this the result after yesterday’s battle ended? I don’t remember it well.

I can only remember things like Ayla being amazing, Amy seeming to be almost dangerous and Zir’s learning ability being surprisingly high.

[What is this, your complexion is terrible. What happened?]

When I arrived at the shop, that’s the first reaction from Thill’s who is unusually standing at the counter.

[Please don’t worry about it, our master is just little bit tired]

[I see, I’ll leave it at that then.]

Thill’s concern shifted from me to Zir.

[My, before I noticed anything the number of people in your team has increased by another one?]

[Yeah, she become our comrade yesterday]

[She can use some ready-made equipment if you want.]

[Thank you Thill-san]

Thill stared at Zir for awhile before withdrawing back to the workshop inside.

[Who's that dwarf?]

[Thill-san is a human, actually.]

Thill returned with our equipment while Zir is still surprised.

[You can give it a try, I'll fix it if there is something wrong]

We tried on our equipment like he suggested. Everyone's equipment is a perfect fit.

The equipment Thill chose for Zir are a skull cane and a robe for magicians.

[You seem to understand that Zir has a black magic job.]

Zir is tall so it's not wrong if people think of her as swordman.

[Her body type is wrong. There's no way a swordswoman would be so lanky, right?]

I thank Thill and hand over the money to Toto for Zir's equipment and leave the store.

We're really indebted to Thill, from now on let's often come here in the future. I'm sure there will be more requests to create custom equipment too.

Like usual, Ayla and I blow the Monster whistle near the usual forest.

Duo and Ruo came at once and Queen came soon after, however the Goblin commander LaLu didn't show up.

It might have been killed by the adventurers. When I was about to give up, an earth rumbling *dododododo* approached this way.

When I look in the direction of the forest, it appears that something is coming in our direction. For a moment, is that LaLu?

Thinking about it, it's clear that the numbers are weird. 10 odd goblins will not make such a rumbling noise in the forest.

I tell everyone to be prepared for battle. Tension runs through everyone.

However, the one who appears is LaLu. No – it's not the LaLu that I knew; but it is still LaLu.

LaLu has evolved.

LaLu Goblin Elite Commander Lv.25

2 years old

****

Skill

[Commander]

Able to command Monsters of the same race, below one's rank.

The command range depends on the Skills Level.

****

Instead of just 10 or so members, their numbers now exceed 50. There seems to be subspecies and varieties too.

To break it down:

Goblin Elite x 5

Goblin Elite Lancer x 6

Goblin Elite Archer x 5

Goblin x 14

Goblin Lancer x 10

Goblin Archer x 8

Goblin Mage x 3

The goblin elites' average levels are 15, while the average levels of the normal goblins are 10.

Why did the number of goblins and their level increase more than three times in less than one week?

When hearing Lalu, it seems that they have followed my orders by strengthening their numbers and hunting monsters.

Several goblin villages have also been absorbed, thus their current numbers.

Moreover, They were able to take down much more larger monsters than before because their numbers have grown.

The guys who were caught by LaLu seemed to have evolved into the Elites. It seems the remaining goblins are the new recruits that have just recently joined. (Light: Added recruits on my own.)

Perhaps the difference in LaLu's level is caused by a part of the experience gained by those under his command being sent to him.

When I checked my status, my own level had also gone up three levels.

This week, we didn't fight any monsters at all though.

Apparently, the inflow of experience is coming from the [Monster Tamer] skill. Ayla's level went up by two levels as well.

[Amazing. is Master the one who employs these goblins?]

[No, I am also surprised with the number too]

[Is that so?]

LaLu seems to have won the local turf war among the monster on this area. When I was being guided around the village, I saw that huge amount of materials and monsters are stockpiled up like junk into a mountain piles.

I sorted the monster materials which can be used. As for the remaining items, I told the goblins to do as they like. The crowd of Goblins flocked around the rubbish mountain with great joy when they heard it.

[Well, this place seems like it's plenty out of sight. Do you mind showing me your magic, Zir?]

[Very well, behold of my [Specter Magic]!!]

fog shrouded around Zir's hand, the dim goblin's village become even darker.

As I watched Zir while shivering, various lights surround Zir as she's casting.

[This is the ghost summon that I am the most skilled at.]

These ghosts are not the souls of humans or monsters, but instead a type of undead which does not possess a body.

Using magic to corrupt the mind, it drives the opponent into a condition whereby he is unable to fight.

Physical attacks are not effective on them but magical attacks are. If you have magic power, even water magic can bring the ghost down.

This monster is a natural enemy for the party who doesn't have magician.

[Of course, I don't just summon regular ghosts. Even though its existence hasn't been confirmed yet, I'll show you I can even have the Ghost Lord work for me.]

Ghost Lord, it seems a monster fused from a large amount of ghost. I heard it's a considerable powerful enemy who can even use physical attacks.

[Awesome, Zir, can you summon zombies too?]

Zir averted her face. The biggest trait of a necromancer is to summon zombies and ghost.

[Oi, Zir?]

[I dislike Zombies]

[No, it doesn't matter if you dislike it or not]

Within necromancy, the ghost skill line is different from the zombie skill line, in the sense that Zombies are physical entities which are able to

perform physical attacks.

In olden times, an evil necromancer manipulated an army of zombies and singlehandedly destroyed a town. There are various legends like this.

[it’s fine right, even if it’s just ghosts.]

Zir may be able to summon zombies, but she seems really doesn’t want to use them. Oh well, there is LaLu’s army as the war potential for physical attack.

[Well, it’s fine I guess.]

[Specter Magic] seems to not be very user friendly, but let’s try it out in actual combat first for now.

Chapter 35

After LaLu and his troops obtained superiority around the area, there were no proper opponents remaining in the forest.

After thinking about it a little I decided to test our skills in the ‘Demon’s Wilderness’.

Even though our monster’s level has increased greatly, we shouldn’t be reckless because the guild might hear about it from the adventurers in a few days.

I arranged The Elite Goblin forces in the nearby forest in case of emergency. There is no way a group of goblins in the wilderness would stand out.

We decided Ayla would take the monsters along with her as it wouldn’t be strange for a monster trainer to do so.

[Oh yeah, Ayla, put this on Duo and the rest]

[Yes, I understand]

I had noticed it when I went to Monster Tamer guild, a lot of Monster Tamers there had applied some kind of mark on their monsters.

It’s because the monsters that the Monster Tamer use don’t have a different appearance with wild monsters.

If a monster gets separated with their tamer, it might get hunted by other adventurers or caught in friendly fire.

To prevent that from happening a collar is equipped which seems to add something like a tattoo to the monsters.

I was surprised to hear that the tattoo itself was treated like a piece of equipment.

Today, we put the collar on Duo and the others.

Queen seemed to dislike wearing to collar on her neck so we wound it around the base of her right sickle.

The collars are handmade by Amy and filled with my magic energy. When making it we had a little dispute with Ayla as she wanted one for herself as well.

I immediately gave the okay for it, but Amy interrupted and said it's impossible to make it right away.

Apparently, in order to control demi-human slaves their collars require a special skill to remove, so it can only be done by slave traders.

Since we had to go to a slave trader anyway we talked about using a magic gem in the creation of the new collar.

Although it would have been fine to ask Amy to make it, We decided on

having it made together so we can make a date out of the occasion.

After hearing about it Amy insisted ‘I’m next, right?’ and pressured us like that. As I thought, Amy’s aggressiveness increased after the yesterday contract.

Let’s put aside the date with the two for awhile. I want to focus on our activities as adventurers right now.

After getting everything ready we embarked towards “Demon’s Wilderness”.

[Okay then, let’s try and use my ghosts for reconnaissance]

Zir directed several ghosts to the right and left area in front of her. The ghosts seemed really excited to be able to prove themselves to be useful.

When I asked if it’s okay to use the ghosts in broad daylight Zir answered they move better at night but there are no real problems using them during the day.

[Master, there are two Ogres ahead of us. The distance is not far from here].

When we look ahead closely, there is definitely something moving.

The ogre is a dangerous monster with bodies over 2 meters tall, and they use their powerful arms to deal severe blows to their enemy.

Even an experienced vanguard adventurer could get blown away in a single hit if he doesn't pay attention.

When we slowly advanced we saw an ogre sitting down seemingly feeling dejected.

There was another ogre who seemed to be the opposite, and was slamming the ground with both his arms. His arms sunk into the earth each time and by now he was surrounded by craters.

[Are ogres always like this?]

I told everyone about the Ogre's status. By the way, the level of Ogre who sit down lazily is lvl.32, the energetic Ogre is Lv.34.

[No way, this is because of my ghosts from before.]

It seems like the ghosts had inflicted the status effects [Exhaustion] and [Panic] by using their unique skills on the ogres.

It appears Sluggish Ghost has an [Exhaustion] skill and Panic Ghost can inflict [Panic].

[It's super effective against simple guys like the Ogres]

I wonder if Duo's [Howl] skill could cause the same [Panic] effect. It also seems like the ogres never noticed when we got closer.

We slowly approaching the panicked Ogre quietly from behind. We use an all-out attack with the our brand-new weapons.

The sword similar to a katana has an inscription of “Zetsumu“ (fog cutter).

The Kukri is inscribed with “Eiga“(sharp fang). The maine gauche was named “Mamorite“ (protecting hand).

Each easily cut through the ogre’s tough skin its right arm was severed like log getting split.

It turned to face us, but its angry roar was cut short by Ayla’s longsword which was sticking from its back, piercing its heart.

There was only minor resistance from the first ogre, and when we turned our gaze to the other one it seemed it was still in an exhausted state and was doing nothing in particular.

It’s easy since the ogre doesn’t put up any resistance and Amy, who is the lowest level among us, is able to defeat the Ogre without issue.

Amy’s level increased after defeating the Ogre. As I expected, the experience for defeating the opponent alone is different than in party.

We gather the dropped “Ogre Horn” and continue to search for our next prey.

[There is a crowd of Orcs further on. They’ve already succumbed to the [Panic] effect]

We head to the crowd of orcs as directed by Zir. They don't seem to be able to put up a fight either.

Previously, only one Ogre who is in panic state. Therefore, its keep repeating slamming the ground.

However, there are 30 orcs now and it seems a fight is going to break out among them.

The average level of these Orcs is around 20 which is higher than the ones we found in the forest. As expected from monsters from the "Demon's Wilderness".

[It'd be bad if we rushed into that melee.

Amy, assist me with the power of your ring.]

[Yes, is it will suffice to cast a large fireball in the middle of crowd?]

[No, I'll manipulate it and scatter flame around the orcs]

[Understood]

Amy obeys my instruction and releases the flames. Several fire pillars rise in the vicinity of the orc crowd.

As I see this I put the fire under my control. I cast a gentle whirlwind in

the center of Orcs by using wind magic.

This is the reproduction of the Firestorm, as named by Kuesu. I hadn't seen the real thing yet so I made it based on my own image, but I'm sure it would be something like this.

The wind mingled with the flames. The flame heated up the air and boosts it further upward. I'm sending in new air with air magic in the lower parts that's running low on oxygen.

Though it took some time, my Firestorm completely encircles the Orcs crowd. Due to the rampaging flame we can't make out the situation inside.

After confirmed the strange voices from inside is have all disappeared, I slowly dispersed the wind and erased the flame.

All that was left inside was cooked [Orc's meat]. It appears I overdid it because the dropped loot materials got burned too.

[Oh my, what terrifying power. Commanding Goblins and such powerful magic, my master this time is really amazing]

[You're magic has become even better than what you used in the forest]

[Now that I think about it, you did say that you had Kuesu-san teach you some magic didn't you?]

Since it can't be helped now, we choosing some of the better cooked

meat to have for our lunch.

The Orcs fatty grilled meat is fairly delicious and only needs to have some salt added.

The remaining meat was given to Ruby.

Ruby went around to collect the scattering meats and divide it to Duo and the other monsters. I didn't expected to see Ruby act as [Supervisor] like this.

[Fuu, my belly is full. Zir, where we will going next?]

[You're a hasty one, aren't you. I'd like to have a break after a meal.]

I flicked Zir's forehead and made her to guide us to our next prey. It's 30 minutes after we finished eating, so hasn't she rested enough?

The next prey is a plant monster named Parafurawa. It doesn't move around and just grows en masse within its territory.

Approaching humans tend to get paralysed by its pollen and get turned into seedbeds for new plants.

According to Zir these being are immune to status effects themselves because they possess neither intelligence nor a consciousness.

As we approach it, the plant's toothy mouth begin to turn to our direction and swell up trying to intimidate us.

Amy using her magic bow to defeat them one after another from outside of their range.

Amy got level-up again after defeating all of the Purafuwara.

I collected the Parafurawa's [Stun Spores].

[Umu, it's for [anesthetic] material]

[You're well informed]

[Well, it's necessary for Necromancers to understand how to handle chemicals like these.]

Amy nods her head behind me like she's thinking 'That's right!'.

I left Amy in charge of pharmaceuticals, so I'm happy to see the 2 can get along on this subject.

I make Zir check the surrounding area so we can start moving again.

[There is a herd of Giga Buffalo over there. Mu, my ghosts are not effective. Most likely they're being obstructed by the boss of the herd.]

Ghost summoning has just been too useful so far anyway. Zir turned her reddening cheeks away from me when I told her so.

[Let's try to approach them for now. Zir, do you know their exact number?]

[Let’s see, it’s around 30]

The Giga Buffalo is a particularly big and strong monster.

[If possible, I want to bring them down and divide their body parts. [Giga Buffalo’s meat] is a material which was on the Guild’s collection request]

[Giga Buffalo’s meat] is very wonderful red meat. It’s perfect to use in a stew.

[Shall I leave cutting up the corpses to Duo and Ruo?]

Ayla made this suggestion. However, I felt a bit uneasy to send those two off into a herd of 30 Giga Buffalo.

[Do you want to use the fire ring again?] Amy suggested

The enemy will certainly be confused by the fires, and it’s a good tactic to separate them with. However, the flame might also hinder our cooperation as well.

[Let’s ask help from the Goblins. The area around here is distant enough from any towns. I’ll also have the ghosts examine the surrounding to check there are no humans around]

Zir gave a nearly perfect solution.

[I see, this way we can compete in numbers]

The monster whistle was taken out from her bosom and she blew on it. LaLu, together with several Goblin Elites came at once.

One of the Goblin's Elite returned to the forest at once to inform the rest of the platoon that they'll be hunting the herd of Giga Buffaloes.

LaLu will act as a decoy and we'll flank the group. We ended up going with a rough strategy like that.

LaLu and his team charged the front of Giga Buffalo herd. The charge formation seems distorted a bit, but is firmly maintained.

As soon as the Giga Buffalo set their

attention to LaLu's group we begin the all-out attack from the sides.

First, Duo's group will be the vanguard. Ayla with her swords in hand will be behind them. If something happened, i'll go ahead to help out too.

While rushing at the herd and I'll conjure a sand cloud using wind magic to disperse them. I defeat any I encounter using

[Zetsumu].

Amy will cover us from a distance with her magic bow. Thanks to the level-up, her accuracy has improved.

Zir, who will join the combat using her ghosts, stayed with Amy. Queen protects the both of them.

The battle against the Giga Buffaloes is progressing well thanks to the collaboration between LaLu's forces and us.

After 30 minutes had passed, all the Giga Buffalo were already defeated. We're taking a break while collecting the [Giga Buffalo's meat].

[Fuu, fighting as group sure is intense.]

[Yes, when the melee started it became very difficult to command all the monsters.]

In the last battle, Ayla was blowing the Monster Whistle the whole time .

[Using a magic bow sure leaves you open to attack doesn't it? you have to manage both arrows and your magic stone after all.]

The magic bow is powered by the magic from the magic stone. Therefore you have to worry about not just your arrows running out but your magic energy as well.

Compared to a few days ago the magic bow allows for much more effective covering fire, but because of this any time this is interrupted a certain dissatisfaction comes out which previously wasn't there.

Humans really are greedy creatures.

[The magic bow needs fire or wind magic to work properly. I'll be sure to keep this in mind too]

[Yes, I don't think both will run out in a single battle, but in the space where we're looking for the next target we should recharge the magic stones.]

[If you need to reload during battle I'll help out too. After all, when the battle has already started there's little need to order the ghosts.]

[Is it okay to rely on you for that?]

[Umu, I'd feel sorry watching Amy moving hastily during battles while just watching off the side.]

Not only on the subject of pharmacology but also during battle these 2 seem to be getting along just fine.

[Well, let's stop our hunt for today. I'd say LaLu's group improved a lot in the forest]

[Umu, It was a fulfilling hunt.]

Zir nodded looking satisfied. While we're returning to town I suddenly thought of something I wanted to ask her.

[During the last battle you really didn't use anything but your ghosts, did you? Well, when you're in a party that's more than enough, but how do you fight normally?]

[Hm? I actually never fought before, nor have I ever been in something like a battle party. Since I can't do any physical attacks at all, I was never really considered useful.

[I see, by the way, why you dislike summoning zombie?]

[I can't think of any happy memories concerning zombies]

Zir had an unpleasant look and answering rather curtly.

[I see, by they way, how about the other undead?]

[Other undead?]

[Such as Skeleton, Dullahan, or Frankenstein monster?]

A frankenstein monster seems more of an automaton though.

[so, there are undead other than zombies then?]

When I heard in detail, the Zir's technique as Necromancer seems self-study. It seems she learned all she knows from a book about spirit magic in her house.

However, the book seems to have only covered the parts about Ghost summoning and Zombie summoning.

Zombie summoning seems like a bad

subject, so let’s not mention zombies again in the future.

When I asked whether nobody pointed this out before she said she never had any friends.

Since I have the opportunity of having a necromancer on the team, Let’s have her to display her abilities fully and without reserve. I’ll buy the related books at the magician guild later.

[Zombie has various types too. I assume it’s the rotten kind that you’re not good with?]

She nodded hard in reaction to my question.

[A skeleton has only bones, while a dullahan’s body won’t rot at all]

We arrived in the town. We sold a part of today’s harvest at the adventurer’s guild and since we’re there we also checked to see if there are any good requests around.

[Hibiki, glad to see you’re here.]

When I turned around towards the voice, I saw Lux standing before me. He wasn't wearing his equipment, but a casual outfit instead. However, he still has the pretty-boy look going on.

[Hey Lux, it's been a long time. Anything going on?]

[Yeah. We're planning to leave this town tomorrow so I wanted to say hello to you before that]

Chapter 36

Tomorrow, Lux will depart to the town of Bureto. One week has passed since we arrived in this town. It seems the big horde of monsters will be reaching Bureto soon.

The lord of this town has already issued the Lord's army as reinforcement. I heard the army will be reaching Bureto around half a day after the Monster horde.

Right now, the walls around Bureto town are reinforced to their maximum. I heard it's gonna be a defensive battle. Today, the adventurers in this town who accepted the Lord's request are ready for their departure.

Though the number is less than the Lord Army, all the members are veteran adventurers who are equal or higher than average adventurers. There are no monster subjugation quests above their skill.

There is a secret weapon which will bring them to the battlefield, the flying monsters from [Welburg airfreight]

[Welburg airfreight] is the transportation guild based in Welburg.

These flying monsters capable of carrying people in groups are limited in number. It seems the Lord has cooperated with the transport guild Welburg this time to ferry the adventurers.

[This way it seems possible to transport around 150 people]

150 veteran adventurers. It seems the local Lord has judged it best to invest his limited logistics capability in this capable fighting force.

[Awesome. By the way, Considering you leave tomorrow when will you arrive?]

[It seems we'll arrive in the morning the day after tomorrow]

It's really amazing to be able to arrive in just a whole day. I also want to have a flight monster.

I promised Lux that I'll come to see him off tomorrow morning.

[will you give Lux a parting present?]

[I will because I was indebted to those people]

[What would be good?]

As a result of our discussion, we decided to give Amy's handmade potions.

[I was saved by Lux's [X-Potion]. The quality might be lower, but Amy's potion will be alright.]

The next morning, when we go to the plaza outside the west gate to meet Lux's party, Lux found us immediately.

[Hibiki, thank you for coming all the way to see us off]

[It's because I am indebted to you since the events in the forest]

[I was helped by you as well]

I passed the leather bag to Lux. There are 20 potions inside the bag which we made yesterday.

[It's a farewell gift. They're potions made by Amy, but I hope they will serve you well.]

[Is it okay for me to take them?]

[sure. But they're not as good as the [X-Potion] back then]

[Don't worry about that. We are aware that Amy's potion work very well].

Gary and the other party members nodded in the back. Everyone who were in that forest already knew about the effectiveness of Amy's potion.

[If it's you, it'll be fine. Make sure you survive, you hear!]

[Ya, I want to meet Hibiki again after all]

Kuese approaches me and Lux. I might as well give her a farewell greeting too.

[Teacher, please be careful]

[You should also be careful [Annihilation]. The defense on this town will be spread thin after we leave, after all.]

Half of the veteran Adventurers were selected to join the Lord's Army. We should be more careful too.

I nodded at Kuesu's advice.

I heard a voice calling me when I returned to the conversation with Lux. When I turned around, Baara and Gary are approaching us together.

[Wait up!! You do notice me, right!?]

I was detained by the KY sister. I stared Seira's face while letting a big sigh.

[What do you want, M Sister?]

Seira is a masochist? Instead of starting to harass me she tilted her

head in question.

[You, what's the meaning of trying to ignore me?]

[Sorry, I didn't see you. Even if I do see you I have no interest in understanding you]

[What'd you say!! Look at me properly!!]

Seira put out her chest. It's well-developed in its own way and it swayed while wrapped with the red nun's clothes. I didn't think about anything strange.

[Is it okay for me to see your half-baked breast? As for the volume, Zir's bigger. As for the shape, I am more in favor of Ayla and Amy.]

Seira was lost for words. However, she didn't seem discouraged and keeps glaring at me.

[You, It seems you won't participate with the rescue party.]

[Yeah, i am not]

Seira seemed to look down on me.

[Why don't participate in the big incident at Bureto town? At times like this do you only think of keeping your own life safe?]

It’s true, but i’ll object for a bit.

[You, are you seriously saying that?]

[Of course I am. People should help each other]

[Are you saying it’s fine for anything to happen to this city as long as Bureto is safe?]

[Fue!? I-I don’t mean it like that!!]

[In that case, are you saying that everyone who remains in this town is selfish?]

[T-that’s…]

[This town is facing the [Demon’s Wilderness]. If the monsters saw the horde of the flying monsters fly away, they might understand that the war potential of this town has fallen so they might come to attack here]

[The remaining people stay in the town for such a situation. Is it selfish to prepare for incoming monster attacks?]

My voice seems a little bit loud and the surrounding people seem to have heard it. The eyes of the other adventurers looking in our direction seem cold-hearted.

Seira seems to noticed the stares and shrunk down.

[Do you understand? Even for those who remain here there's also fighting. I want you to not say such selfish things again]

[… I am sorry]

Seira apologized and bowed deeply. Of course, I didn't think this deeply about it myself before. It's just something I understood after talking with Kuesu earlier.

[It's alright already. I know that it's a fact you guys will be going to a dangerous place.]

[Hibiki, i am sorry. I didn't know you thought that way]

Lux seemed like he wanted to say something. perhaps his mind was so filled with thoughts of rescuing Bureto that he didn't ever think about how it meant lowering the fighting power of this town.

Well, even though he is a Hero, there is one thing adventurer always think. Lux seems seriously prepared to carry everything by himself.

[Don't worry, you are not alone]

[Thank you, I leave this town on you]

[of course. I'll do the best I can.]

The answer really is fitting of an adventurer. Adventurers will never do something at the cost of their lives.

I exchanged a handshake with Lux and saw the flying monster take off. Bureto town might be okay if it's in Lux's hand. I believe in him.

After seeing off Lux's group, we heading toward the magician guild in order to improve Zir's partial knowledge which had me worried yesterday.

I enquire whether it's allowed for me to buy books related in magic, but the guild declined.

[The books related to magic is limited to rank 3 magicians or above]

The fact that sale of these books is restricted is proof that magic is powerful.

It can't be helped if the magician guild said so.

[Then, we're in a stalemate now]

[Master, there might be books related to magic being sold in town]

I approved Amy's opinion and we're heading into town.

It's a good idea. The last time we went around town, we were unable to

do it slowly because we bought Zir.

We arrived in the area of the shop where we bought Zir and we went a little further.

First of all, if it's a book inherently related to magic then within the market area I can sense 20 objects with a magical signature.

[The appearance of this book seems like any other.]

In the first shop, we found an autobiography of [The Great Magician of Flame, Gavanadle]

It seems pretty fishy if he refers to himself as a 'great magician', but after confirming the contents it seems surprisingly reliable.

Gavanadle seems to have been an adventurer, even though he was betrayed by his companion several times.

However, every time he was able to get away from hordes of monsters.

It has detailed explanations on what he did to survive.

I bought it since it's seems useful. The price was two large copper coins.

When we check the other books, including those in the other shops, most are only about teaching basic magic or autobiographies of magicians.

When we found the books about Ghost Magic we were looking for we bought them all.

Though they number few there are books that themselves seemed to carry magic called [grimoires].

The grimoires we found were:

The [Book of Storage] with the ability to store magic and use it later.

The [Book of Summon] which can summon contracted partners to your location.

The [Book of Wisdom] which had magic inside it but we didn't quite understand its effect.

When I checked the status of [Book of Wisdom]:

****

Book of Wisdom (Dormant mode)

The book recorded by a sage.

All knowledge can be obtained.

****

I wonder what this dormant mode means. When I checked inside, a pattern that looked like graffiti made by a child covered all pages.

When I asked to the shopkeeper about the its origin, it seems it's from

the mansion of the previous generations of Lord.

After the Lord died during the organizing of his belongings the grandmother of the shopkeeper who worked there at the time was given this book.

He believed it to be valuable so he put it for sale in his shop, but the shopkeeper was troubled because it seems everyone ignored this book for a long time.

When I said I would buy it for 4 large copper coins he was overjoyed.

We also bought a few other things from this stall that seemed to catch my eye.

Tomorrow, I decided we're going to Goblin's village to do various experiments. While we're at it, we also bought some of the mass-produced items being sold in city for the goblins to use as equipment.

That night when everyone were sleeping I took out the books that we bought in the town. I poured magic into the [Book of Storage].

I thought I'd go back to sleep and put it the book back on the table.

[Umu, it's already ten years after I received magic. It's spreading in my body]

I heard a voice, but there is no one around.

[over here, my new owner. although my owner seems to have already found me, is looking for me some sort of ritual?]

The voice is coming from my hand.

I checked the book in my hand in hurry.

Apparently, the book in my hand is not [Book of Storage], but it's [Book of Wisdom].

I made a mistake because the book cover is almost similar.

[Are you the one who is talking, [Book of Wisdom]?]

[Yes I am, I am the one who collecting all the knowledge of this world, [The Book of Wisdom].

Chapter 37

The previous owner of the [Book of Wisdom] was definitely the late Lord.

He seemed to have entrusted all his decisions to the [Book of Wisdom].

Therefore, when the book's magic energy ran out the local lord ended up getting dismissed right away by his superior.

[He was the serious and straightforward type.]

The [Book of Wisdom] said so sadly.

[Well now, what kind of knowledge does my new master want from me?]

I thought for a bit after it asked me but couldn't think of anything in particular.

When I simply answered as such the book seemed perplexed.

[You can obtain any knowledge at all, you know.]

Let's try asking about necromancers.

[Umu, Necromancers are magicians who are able to manipulate [Ghost Magic]. Their [Ghost Summon] and [Zombie Summon] abilities are famous.

[Does the [Zombie Summon] ability required a corpse?]

[Indeed. But, if a zombie already exist it can be summoned to your location without one.]

[Our necromancer is not good with corpses so are there any zombie types who don't need one?]

[...[Zombie Summon] can only summon typical zombies. However, necromancers can summon other undead beings.]

The necromancer is a class which has deep connection with all monster related to the undead type.

The zombie and ghost seems to be examples of this.

After that, [Book of Wisdom] taught me the kind of undead which don't require a corpse.

[The famous ones are skeletons, ghouls, will-o-wisps and cursed armors (even though it's not really undead). However, in the past there was a necromancer who was able to summon Cerberus.]

As expected from the [Book of Wisdom]. it seems the Dullahan that I

mentioned the other day is a type of cursed armor.

The will-o-wisp is a small spirit that looks to be completely on fire and is related to Jack-o'-lanterns and onibi. (TN: floating fire representing a spirit in Japanese culture. google it, you've seen them before in various media.)

[By the way, do you know the technique to contract Cerberus?]

[I am [Book of Wisdom]. I don't possess that sort of specialized information. It has to be knowledge that could be understood by anyone for me to have a hold of it.]

In other words, he doesn't know. It seems he's trying to say he doesn't know what only a singular genius could somehow understand.

I think I'll leave it at that for today go to sleep.

[er, Zir has only just joined us but I'll introduce you as another new member to everyone tomorrow.]

The next day, we went to the goblin village as the scheduled. I introduced the [Book of Wisdom] to everyone.

Ayla is looking at our new comrade restlessly.

Amy looked a bit scary somehow when I said our member count had increased again. I decided to pretend I didn't notice it.

Zir is still yawning sleepy. She doesn't seem to be very interested.

[Oi, [Book of Wisdom] go and greet everyone]

[Umu, nice to meet you all, I am [Book of Wisdom]. Please look after me from now on]

[The book just talked. The book is talking right?]

[…an [Intelligent Item] is it? It's my first time to see one.]

[Un? The book from yesterday? I'm certain this book didn't talk yesterday]

The three girls seem a bit surprised. actually, Ayla seems to be having trouble believing it. regardless, now I know these things are called [Intelligent Item]s.

[Fumu, the three of you have some good reactions. Then, you can ask anything of me. I'll grant you whatever knowledge want.]

The three girls ponder for a bit.

[… There is nothing that I want to know]

[… it's so. Currently I don't have anything I want to know in particular.]

[… To begin with, This is the first time a “book” told me to ask it something.]

[Na!?]

[book of Wisdom] was shocked. It might be denied its own existence if things continue like this.

Maybe I should help it out a little.

[Ah~, come to think of it, recently I’m lacking stamina during the night. Isn’t there any good medicine for it?]

Somehow the question kinda came out sounding business-like.

[U… umu, I see. Then how about [Youth Medicine]?]

[[Youth medicine]?]

[Yes, if you drink it before doing the act, you won’t be tired until the next morning. Therefore, people call it [Youth medicine]]

The [Book of Wisdom] is amazing. I am still in my teens, though.

Amy who heard the story of [Youth Medicine], listened in detail on how to make it.

The materials seem easy to get. It's possible to make it from the materials we bought from our recent shopping trip in town. Amy begins to make it immediately.

[By the way, the necromancer that master spoke of last night is you?

[oh, did you talk about me when I was not around?]

[Yeah, we were talking about those disgusting undead]

[I-is that so. Master, the next time you should include me too.]

[Sure, understood. However, the topic yesterday wasn't that important]

I told Zir about the things we talked about yesterday.

[Certainly, if it's bones and armor I should be fine with it.]

I'll have the book support Zir with undead summoning. The [Book of Wisdom] lectures her about various subjects.

I asked Ayla to raise the level of our subjugated monsters.

Duo and Luo have already surpassed level 20 and would probably never lose against any of the monsters in the forest, however if we intend to have them hunt in the [Monster Wilderness] they might be somewhat lacking in power.

As for Queen there probably won't be any problems if it's one on one, but if she got surrounded it might be dangerous. It's better to raise her level a bit more.

Amy seems preoccupied with mass-producing the [Youth medicine] so it doesn't look like she'll be leaving town soon. She seems really enthusiastic about it.

I already expected as much, but when I returned to town [Youth Medicine] sold for a high price in the Alchemist guild. The recipe seemed to have been lost so people were unable to make it effectively. This item is quite popular among the Nobles, and I was even asked to sell the recipe. In any age, in any world, human lust seems to never change.

The staff scowled at me when I demanded 10 percent of the medicine sales worth 50 gold pieces every month. However, when I mentioned going to merchant guild instead they quickly agreed.

I aimed to learn new magic.

First, earth magic which should be easy to obtain.

I put my hand on the ground and poured in magic. there is a flow of power in the ground I noticed. I could sense It's several hundreds of meters below.

I wonder if this must be the so called Earth Veins, also known as the dragon pulse. Although I can sense the Earth Veins by using magic, I'm

unable to completely manipulate it. Perhaps the power scale is too large.

The power seems to gently caress the surface. By using earth magic I can seemingly scoop up some of the magic power and make it flow more strongly through the earth.

[Hoi!]

I shouted while raising my arms. A part of the ground seems to be linked and rose up.

The shout and hand movements are actually unnecessary as long as you have a clear image, but it's easier to make a good image by doing that.

After that, I try raising up only clay-like earth from the earth or just minerals. It seems earth magic is particularly multifunctional.

And then, my main event of the day.

I want to learn thunder magic.

first, the preparation.

Lemon-like fruit.

Several kinds of metal plates.

Silver wires

Myself.

That should be all.

First, I cut the lemons through the center.

Next, two different kinds of metal sheets are pierced into a piece of fruit. Then I do the same for the next. I do this several times.

In the end I connected the metal sheets together in long chain with silver wire.

With this, the lemon battery is completed.

nervously I slowly grip the two silver ends.

I released them the moment I touched them because of the prickling sensation

[Scary! It seems more painful than static electricity]

Once you've felt it it becomes harder to touch them again.

For awhile, I kept bringing my hands closer to the wires and then pull them back again.

[Master, what are you doing?]

I was surprised when someone called me.

[Don't scare me, Zir!!]

[I didn’t mean to startle you. So, what are you doing?]

[I’m learning a new magic.]

[I never heard of such a training method. I want you to explain it in detail.]

The [Book of Wisdom] seems interested as well. Curious? no, it might be the thirst of knowledge.

[Well, I was about to do it seriously so I don’t care.]

I gripped the silver line while answering thus.

[Gyaa!! Guu~]

This time I endured it without releasing the silver line.

I made magic pass through the silver line and it grew in tune with the electric current.

It’s not possible to stop or reverse the flow no matter how much magic I poured into the current. However, it seems I’m able to manipulate the flowing amount and the speed.

Although the fundamental characteristics of electricity didn’t change, It seems I’m able to manipulate the voltage and the electric current.

I stand up to try it immediately and try to shoot electricity toward a nearby tree. However, although magic seems to gather around my hand nothing seems to shoot out.

It seems the increasing levels of magical energy acts like an electrical resistor and the current stops.

So it's not gonna work as well as in manga after all.

When I was thinking that, the magic in my hand suddenly lost the resistance and in the next moment something flashed for an instant.

With a zudon, the targeted tree created an earth-shattering noise and it falls, smashed from its root up.

[Uwaa, so dangerous!]

I succeed to avoid the falling tree in the nick of time. smoke rises up and there are several burned places too.

[Amazing, I say~]

[What was that, just now!?]

[I confirmed it. that was really [Thunder Magic]. is my master a Hero?]

[how wonderful. so this is Hero's [Thunder Magic]!]

[Nope, this seems to be [Shock Magic]]

When I checked it on my status, it showed [Shock Magic]

Isn't Thunder and Electric all the same?

Well, when asked I'd say that a lightning attack(raigeki) sounds more powerful than a shock(dengeki) attack.

[Probably, this is an inferior version to the hero's [Thunder Magic]]

[So an inferior version is like this? It looks like you're just playing with food to me. To think you'd learn magic like this.]

[I never heard about [Shock Magic]. There is also no story about anyone being able to get [Thunder Magic] except for the Hero. I am disqualified as the [Book of Wisdom]].

The [Book of Wisdom] somehow is feeling down.

It seems only the chosen hero can use [Thunder Magic].

Since I'm not a Hero, I didn't know anything about it.

[By the way, Zir. How did undead summoning go?]

Zir answers me while grinning.

[Kufufu, you want to know? Then, I'll show it to you. Behold my loyal servant!!]

Magic gushes out from Zir's body.

A whirlpool of magic appears near Zir simultaneously and an arm is growing from its center.

The content slowly comes into view as the whirlpool grows.

It's probably a skeleton inside. The arm being white bone makes it obvious at first glance.

The diameter of the whirlpool grows to two meters and becomes the figure of a swordsman skeleton holding an unrefined large sword on its shoulder.

The body is covered by a metallic armor even though it's only bones.

Despite the impression that it consist of just bones, It feels reliable.

[How is that, it looks strong, right? This one may even be able to win against master.]

When I confirmed its status, it displayed [Skeleton Warrior]. Level 30.

Indeed, I might not win.

[Understood. let’s have a match]

I accept Zir’s provocation.

Chapter 38

[tl: Shock magic is a level down from Lightning magic, I.E: it's electricity magic but not to the power of Lightning magic.]

「Master, I hope that you won't be using that magic…」

「Yes, I know, that magic is an exception」

「Ahh, got it. But I'll be using other types of magic, alright?」 (Light: Rhetorical question)

Zir went "Umu" while I nodded. Honestly though, by burning the Skeleton Warrior using【Shock Magic】, I'll be able to wipe the floor with it. However, it seems that as long as Zir was safe, it'll be able to resurrect… But anyhow, even if I win that way, Zir probably won't be convinced. Even though I've just learned it, and am itching to use it, I'll have to restrain myself.

Lowering my center of gravity by spreading my legs to shoulder-width, I got ready to intercept the Skeleton Warrior with his nodachi, using【Zetsumu】.

From its stance, I feel like he's not ordinary at all…Or rather, it's the first time I've ever met a monster that's using a【Stance】.

「Oi, Zir. Isn't this fellow somehow strange!?」

「Kufufu. Master, that guy is under my control. But of course he has a decent amount of ability.」

「No, that's not what I mean!!」

As I desperately try to question Zir, the Skeleton warrior started moving in order to attack.

It swung down the nodachi from the top of its head in order to make the best use of the sword's weight. A blow which doesn't only use the power of the weapon, but also the muscles of its wielder's entire body, is without a doubt, able to easily destroy a human's body.

Of course, that's if it's able to hit.

「Fuu, dangerous, dangerous. Heck, a skeleton doesn't have muscles.」

I pulled my body and was somehow able to avoid the deadly blow, and then quickly tried to counterattack. The instant that I avoided his attack, I swung my sword sideways without changing my posture.

The Skeleton Warrior swayed, and I ended up striking the arm that did not hold the nodachi.

I landed a blow which I put my whole weight behind. During the time I struck the hand of the Skeleton Warrior, I casted【Earth Magic】on the ground below the Skeleton Warrior and made it sink 15cm. The Skeleton Warrior posture was thus destroyed as soon as the ground sunk. I didn't miss this chance, and used【Fire Magic】to throw a Fireball.

The Skeleton Warrior is blown backwards by several meters. The Fireball hit a bone directly, because it was directed to a part of it's body that was not covered in a metallic armor.

When the sand cleared up, the Skeleton Warrior has already fallen. Because the lower part of his spine seemed to have been lost, it's unable to move. It tried several times to stand up and move its body, but to no avail.

Just as I thought that it was finally over, a pale light started wrapping around the Skeleton Warrior's Belly.

Huh? The moment that I was stuck in bewilderment over what's happening, it rose up and started rushing towards me.

「Zir, recovery is unfair!!」

「What are you going about. Isn't this a practical use of magic?」

「As expected from medical recovery, the heavy damage it has taken earlier is recovered in instant!!」

As I was saying that, the Skeleton Warrior was searching for a chance to attack with its sword.

We've crossed swords several times now, and as expected, its blows are quite heavy. I judged that it's impossible to win depending on strength only, so I decided to use a magic sword.

「Take this, Fire Sword!!」

The fire, which is now coating the sword, is not only for offensive, but also defensive. It's effective as long as it's able to hit.

The fire spread on the other party and deprived it from its visibility. In addition, I felt sympathy toward the Skeleton Warrior as I used【Wind Magic】to fan the fire into a small『Flame Whirlwind』.

「How about this!!」

The Skeleton Warrior managed to escape from the『Flame Whirlwind』with a tattered body.

The moment before it almost died, its whole body was wrapped, yet again, with light. The Skeleton Warrior has fully recovered.

I'm fed up with this, and am somehow searching for a way to end it all.

「Now that I think about it, that pale light for recovery earlier seems different from the usual recovery magic.」

It might be an exclusive recovery magic for the Undead.

「Ah, I might be able to use that…」

I started feeding magic to the sword.

I notice that the Skeleton Warrior is running toward me, so I dash

forward to meet him.

The moment before our swords crossed, I used【Wind Magic】to protect my body and dodged the Skeleton Warrior's slash by a hair's length. Although I had escaped a slash to my flank with my sense of counter, I slashed at his back.

The Skeleton Warrior turned around, and started walking. One step, two step and finally three steps. It then fell down with a sound, and didn't move again at all.

「What, not recovering? What did you do!?」

「Fuu, it turned out well」

『Master, I request an explanation. Zir's magic should still be enough. Why is it unable to revive?』

「Sure, I'll tell you sooner or later.」

I sat down on the ground. I see, the story about a Necromancer that took down the town alone might be true.

Just one Skeleton Warrior is able to turn me into this state. What if there were a dozen of them? The town might truly be ruined.

「Well then, I'll be returning to my magic training, so don't disturb me.」

「I'll remember this time.」

『Master, I hope for observation』

Both of them seem like they're going to remain here.

I take out the broken『Clock』from my leather bag.

This old pendulum clock, no matter how many times I wind-up the spring, it seems that it comes to

a stop approximately 30 minutes later…

After confirming that when I wind the spring and the clock starts ticking, I start pouring magic into the clock.

So, considering when you put magic into fire, then it'll result in【Fire Magic】. When you put magic into an electric current, then it'll result in【Shock Magic】. Then if I want to learn【Time magic】, then that might be possible with this『Clock』

Slowly, the clock is soaked with magic. Is this working right? Let's try moving the second hand as well.(TN: Second hand might means the Minutes Line/Tick)

The second-hand started to make a gigigi sound and move in a reverse-rotation. However, there is nothing unusual about it. Let's stop the second-hand for now…and as expected, nothing happened.

Still, it's a fact that we're able to operate the clock. When checking my Status, I found out that I learned a new magic called【Mental Force

Magic】, even though I don't remember learning it at all.

This seems like a magic that's able to move objects from a remote place without touching them. Long story short, it's telekinesis.

When I asked about『Mental Force Magic』from the Book of Wisdom, it explained what it knows. (Light: I was very tempted to go with『The Force』)

『Mental Force Magic is a magic that doesn't have many uses. To begin with, this magic is only passed down in a certain clan. I once heard that there was a man in power who feared to be assassinated by this power because it's harder to perceive than other magics, so the entire clan that used it were exterminated. Is the Owner one of the clan's survivors?』

It seems that I have to remember to not show this magic in other people's presence too much.

It wouldn't be a problem, since I don't really plan on using it.

「I am, neither the hero nor a survivor of a ruined clan.」

Because of the Book of Wisdom, I explained【Shock Magic】and【Mental Force Magic】.

「What do you think about Lightning?」

『Lightning is, one of the techniques that God used in order give out Divine Judgment. However, the people who are surrounding the guilty person would also get hit. It's all because they weren't able to stop the person, so they're judged to be guilty as well.』(TN: Lightning is an AOE

magic :>)

No no no, that's way too unreasonable. I don't really want to speak badly about the gods, since they're giving me their divine protection...

「It might not related to God, and just be a coincidence.」

『However, it's also true that the Lightning hits the ones who commit the sins』

「What if the the sin has already been committed, and the sinner is not struck by lightning. Does that mean that lightning is limited only to some of the sinners?」

『The Book of Wisdom』 pondered for a bit.

『Indeed, I can understand that. Although it's the truth that sinners get stricken by lightning, it could be that it is also mean that it is not limited to them as well...』 (Light: As in, the lightning could hit anywhere, and just coincidently hits a person. "Oh no, he was hit by lightning! Divine judgment!! This guy, who i've known for my whole life, who never stole or sinned or even hurt a fly, must be a sinner!")

「In the country that I live in, lightning is classified as nothing but a natural phenomenon. It's even been clarified how it works.」

『I can't even imagine how lightning and a fruit are of the same nature. Please, if you can enlighten me?』 (Light: Remember back to how he learned shock magic.)

「Let's see. To put it simply, Lightning is a movement of a power.」

『Movement?』

「Right. For example, if the temperature in a room is cooled down with ice, then the moment when the room's door opens, the hot air outside would enter, right? That is, the air will start moving and begin changing into same temperature」.

『It's possible to understand, but it's not possible to sympathize because I don't have a body』

「I see. Lightning is the movement of a thing called electrons. When the Electrons are in a state of being between both coldness and hotness, the phenomenon as Lightning occurs. As for why Lightning falls from the sky, toward both people and buildings alike, is because it's really easy to move through them.」 (Light: Don't have a science background concerning lightning, so I'm giving Jesus the wheels and going to follow the raw…)

『I see, then, why does lightning occur within a fruit?』

「Though the scale is a bit smaller, the same thing would happen when two surfaces of metals, one cold and the other hot, come into contact… That way, I guess the fruit would become the cloud?」(Light: I'm really not sure about this one. Neither is Raizu…「規模は小さいけど、この2枚の金属の板が暑いと冷たいの代わりをしてるのさ、ちなみに果物は雲の代わりかな」)

This explanation should be good enough. No one knows the exact details anyway, so I can't be blamed if I'm wrong.

「Then,【Shock Magic】and【Lightning Magic】, are there no differences between them??」

「Well, isn't the difference between them is whether they have the power of a god within or not?」

「Right. Back in my country, Lightning is written as『Kaminari』, that's because there's probably some of god's power within.」(Light: Alright, this would be a bit complicated to explain as an editor. So, What he means by that is, that lightning is stronger than shock magic. Why? Because it has【Kami】(God) in【Kaminari】(Lightning). Usually, they use this kanji for lightning 雷 but while explaining, he used this kanji 神鳴. It's all to showcase Kami "神" in Kaminari "神鳴" which means God. So, what he means is, Lightning has a bit of the power of a god, that's why it's more powerful than shock magic. It's all guesses on his part, I think. Gosh, I feel like a translator =3=)

There's also something about the Olympia's Sacred Fire being lit by the power of the sun, so an artificial electric current might not be judged the same as『Lightning』.

My【Shock Magic】is completely artificial; this interpretation about the comparison between them is quite persuasive at the moment. (Light: He can't help but agree about the difference in power between his own magic and lightning magic.)

『I understand. Then, what about【Mental Force Magic】...?』

「I don’t understand it either. Anyway, It seems to be a force that is able to move an object without touching it.」

『I don’t understand. Please explain it more concretely』

「In that case, let me make you experience it first hand.」

『What do you mean?』

I use【Mental Force Magic】to lift Zir who’s carrying『Book of Wisdom』off the ground.

「Uwa, what. Master, Don’t surprise me.」

Zir is more surprised than the『Book of Wisdom』. The『Book of Wisdom』itself shows a different reaction, like its uninterested as it talked in a matter-of-fact tone.

『Fumu, Although I don’t understand why we are flying, I certainly didn’t detect any magic. Being able to feel such a rare magic is a great experience』

It said so in a flat-tone, but it seems quite happy about it.

『Umu, collecting new knowledge is really wonderful. I am lucky that I was able to meet such a knowledgeable owner as well.』

「I see, well, I've also had you teach me about『Youth Medicine』. We're even.」

『From now on, I request that you complete my lacking knowledge.』

「If you're good with me doing so during my free time, then sure.」

Since there is still some time, I want to practice my【Shock Magic】which was banned on the previous fight. First, let's do it the orthodox way by cladding my sword in it.

Sometimes, a "ji-jitto" sound is heard while lightning runs on the surface of sword. I try to get the sword through the trunk of the fallen tree I took down a little while ago. Although I feel a resistance, I can make round slices on it. My sword leave a burnt mark on the cut section but it's still beautiful in its own way. This technique probably can be used as an attack (TN: Lightning sword). It likely will create an electroshock if my opponent used a metal shield to guard my attack.

Next is long-distance attack. I accumulate Electricity Magic in my left-hand because my sword is in my right-hand.

Thanks to the last shooting experience, I have a better grasp on the required time to collect the energy compared to other magics.

To shock my target, I have to discharge the electricity in its vicinity. In order to do that, however, I must charge up a high amount of power.

After shooting it with at full power, something seems to bother me.

My body feels more and more sandy after repeating the process of

charging to the limit followed by shooting for several times..

I remove the sand nearly covering my whole body. How did that happen? When I fighting the Skeleton Warrior earlier, I was still clean.

I realize something after thinking about it. I have shot Shock magic too much. My body was polarized. This sand is an iron sand…

「I see, Magnetism. If I use Shock for awhile, I might able to develop something.」

I decide to conceive something based on magnetism from this discovery.

Chapter 39.

Author note:

I got a lot of ideas from everyone about lightning magic and I'll leave it dormant for now.

After the end of this fight I plan to have the experiments continue.

==========

The sun had set while we were practicing other magic. Then, we returned from the Goblin Village back to town.

Before we head back to the hotel, we dropped by Thill's shop to hand off some production requests. There are several necessary things for next time's experiments.

He said the requests will be finished tomorrow at the earliest. We decided to head out back to the Demon's Wilderness tomorrow to hunt again.

We returned to the hotel. We took our meals on the first floor where the combination of dining room and bar is located. By the time we're done, it's already pitch black outside.

When we return to the room in order to rest, Ayla leads me to the bed while smiling. (TN: Laid time~)

[N,no. We're going to hunt tomorrow so I want to conserve our

stamina.]

Amy came to me while holding a large amount of medicine vials. It's the [Youth Medicine] that she created in the village.

I steel myself and lay down. Zir, who tries to run away, was caught by Ayla by the arm.

When the number of comrades increases, I don't want anyone to be left out. Let's all happily enjoy it together.

***

[NyamNyam… Hafu]

Zir embraced me from the front while sitting on my lap and bites my neck while immersed in the afterglow. Zir often does this in this situation.

[Oi, Zir. Don't bite me seriously]

Zir bites carefully with her fangs, but she isn't loosening up on her strength.

[Pi-cha. Kufufu, master doesn't change even if I suck your blood after all.]

Zir whispered happily while licking up my blood that oozed out from

the wound. I wonder what she's so happy about?

『For a Vampire, the act of sucking blood is like a courting act, I see. It seems it's also possible to have some pillow talk while doing it.』

It's coldly analysing the situation from the sidelines. Isn't it too interested in this stuff? I'll start calling this book the [Lewd Book] instead, darn it.

Although the wound has stopped bleeding, Zir seems to keep sticking to it. I pull her off somehow and put her back to bed.

Ayla and Amy who were sleeping next to each other like logs in the bed show satisfactory smiles. [Youth Medicine] is awesome.

My stamina and magic were exhausted after my blood was sucked by Zir. I need to increase my Stamina if I want to keep doing this from now on.

I laid down and thought about drinking a potion to recover and sleep like this.

At that time, a ghost came out from the wall.

If I didn't get used to seeing ghosts since a few days ago, I might have screamed a little.

I turn towards my bed with the intention of falling into it.

[Watch out!!]

Zir shouts loudly to get my attention. I activate shock magic on my right hand immediately and turned around.

When the magic in my right hand made contact with the ghost, it made a ‘bachi’ sound and the ghost disappeared.

[That is a nightmare ghost. It inflicts [Nightmare], which in the worst case can lead to death]

[I’ll just ask to be sure, but this isn’t one of your ghosts, is it Zir?]

Maybe she slept feeling disgusted after having a evening festival (TN: lewd feast) every night to the point of running out of stamina?

[That’s not one my ghosts. also, I’m not really all that disgusted. … at the moment.]

She let out a weird voice. However, This means there is another necromancer who employs ghosts beside Zir.

Not just that, but this guy sent a ghost who’s able to cause a potentially lethal abnormal state.

[It’s strange but there are zombies in this town. There are only a couple of them right now, but they could overwhelm the town before long.

Zir explained the situation while showing a genuinely displeased face.

I wake up both Ayla and Amy immediately. Even though it's an emergency I have a hard time bringing myself to wake these two girls up who sleep so happily.

[Ayla, Amy, sorry but please wake-up]

Both woke up at once when I called them and shook their bodies. I passed them a physical recovery potion and explained the situation to them.

[So, what will we do?]

[Let's try attacking the ringleader for now. Zir has guessed what monster is controlling the zombies. The two of you should take shelter in the goblin's village just in case.]

[No way, I'm going with you.]

[Duo and the rest are just outside town so I can call them right away too.]

[I won't allow it. Please be obedient. I'll have you help me when I can no longer manage it.]

[It seems the situation is already beyond Master's control.]

Zir poured water over our conversation. (EN: she interrupted/ruined it)

[What do you mean?]

[A horde of monsters have gathered on the outskirts of town from the Monster Wilderness and forest. These seem to be the main force.]

When hearing the detailed explanation from Zir, A large horde of monsters seems to be heading right for us through the east and west gates.

The Zombies earlier seem to have been only a beginning. The horde will seemingly arrive in about 4 hours.

After hearing this I explain our strategy to the others. This is a situation we cannot handle by ourselves. We need more people.

Amy will go to the Adventurer's Guild and explain the situation. Maybe the commotion in town is already being noticed by the guild.

It may be hard to convince the others, but it's better than doing nothing.

We need people from the guild to fight the current zombies and wake people from their [Nightmare] affliction so we can properly prepare for the monster horde.

Ayla and Raru will prepare for combat in the Goblin's village. I'm

planning to prepare several tricks from the forest side.

Zir and I will defeat the [Zombie Mother] and head to the Adventurer's Guild. Afterwards, most likely we will participate in the start of strategy meeting.

After everyone got their tasks, I instructed them to run away when they are in danger.

[Okay everyone, absolutely don't do anything dangerous.]

[Yes. Master, please take care too]

[I'll make sure to move out with Raru's group immediately]

After separated with the two others, Zir and I move out to defeat the [Zombie Mother].

The [Zombie Mother] seems to be moving around the Lord's Castle. After Zir guided me we found a zombie with the appearance of a pregnant woman walking around randomly.

[Is it this one?]

[Yes it is, Master. Let's defeat it quickly]

Zir answered while desperately turning her face away. It's still quite

painful to cut the pregnant woman even though it's zombie. I decided to erase it with fire magic.

The fire from my hand burns the zombie.

After doing so for 30 seconds the flames slowly dispersed and the zombie is barely intact.

When I tried to finish it with another flame attack a pale light wraps the zombie mother and recovered its whole body.

Although I say that, since it's a zombie originally its body returns to being a gooey and sloppy mess.

[This is the same thing like with the Skeleton Warrior]

[Yeah. Most likely the magic is being supplied automatically]

It has recognized us as an enemy after being attacked, so the Zombie Mother moves in our direction.

[Good thing I fought and undead once before already.]

Saying so, I pour the magic that defeated the Skeleton Warrior into my sword.

I swing the magic-clad sword and aim for the neck of the Zombie Mother.

The head went flying and melts away in the air.

The remaining body collapses smoothly and disappears.

[I saw it when you dueled with my Skeleton Warrior too. What magic is that?]

[I strengthened my weapon with healing magic. A healer can use healing magic to filter out black magic from a victim, and because undead are filled with pure black magic I can use healing magic to completely remove all their power – making regeneration impossible.]

Healing magic usually defeats zombies in games. Although I only tried to copy this, it worked out well in the end.

The healing magic sword finally gets a chance to be recognized. There are zombies still lurking around the town.

There's a crowd in front of the Adventurer Guild when we arrived after finishing the clean-up of the zombies in town.

[Master, over here!]

Amy waved at us from inside the building.

When we are able to get through the crowd and enter the building we're brought to some kind of conference room. There are around 20 people inside.

[You are Hibiki, right?]

I took a seat at the far back of the room after entering, and was

immediately addressed by an older guy.

[Yes. I am]

This uncle is the branch-head of the adventurer guild in this town. I heard he is the local lord as well.

Although it's a town filled with adventurers, there are few people skilled enough to hold 2 major positions concurrently.

[Is the information that girl brought true?]

Without any idle chat he gets right down to business. This uncle seems quite excellent.

[Yeah, the horde of monsters approaches from the forest and wilderness. Most likely they will arrive in this town in about two hours]

[Don't lie to us!! Do you have any evidence!?]

An idiot flares up…

[If you don't believe it that's fine with me too. If you guys aren't going to do anything we'll just leave town]

The others in the room start to get noisy. I continue without minding it.

[The number of monsters is around 1600. about 800 each for both the east and the west. It's likely they are aiming for the gates]

[Preposterous! Currently there's no more than just 300 people who are able to fight, including the soldiers!]

What Seyra said is the truth. The enemies outnumber us five to 1 or worse. We will be overpowered even with the town walls.

[Hibiki, why do you have such detailed information?]

Because of the lord's question the others became noisy again. They're suspicious of me.

[There is a necromancer in my party. Because a strange ghost entered into our room we inspected the town. Doing so we found the zombies wandering around and we ended up examining the surrounding of the town as well. Thus, we found the horde of monsters]

People reacted again when I mentioned a necromancer. Are you guys reaction performers or something?

[How did things end up like this anyway!?]

[Are the zombies and ghosts in town not perhaps your own forces?!]

It's the same idiot who shouted in the beginning too. I'll remember this guy's face and name. I glared at the idiot's face. It's a coward.

[The barking of a weakling. Some adventurer you are.]

[What!?]

The idiot turned on me after I provoked him. It's a genuine moron.

[Don't you bastards go blaming your own weakness on others!! Do the adventurers in this town shake in their boots because of something on this level? Adventurers from an adventurer-town sure have a top-class ability to turn tail.]

The surrounding adventurers sent hostile glares toward me for my words. Although it's a critical situation, we should still be able to manage with this number of people. They're all guys with adequate levels after all.

[I don't know if I should trust you]

The Lord said while shaking his head..

[I believe in him]

The voice came from Feryu.

[To begin with, These guys could have happily fled just by themselves but came to tell us anyway. Instead of being thankful you lot can only resent them]

[Also, I know these fellows fairly well. [Annihilation] are not bad guys]

[Annihilation] isn't well-known in this town. Feryu begins to speak fluently about the events with the sharp wolves.

Probably because the Divine Protections are being brought-up the people begin to believe it.

[But, the enemies are more than five times our own war potential]

The Lord said half-complaining.

[Please leave the West Gate to us, we'll do something about it]

[Are you sure can do it?]

I say a phrase I haven't used for a while.

[I have [Divine Protection] after all]

Chapter 40

[Because I have [Divine Protection]]

Of course everyone already knows about it from Feryu's story earlier.

It might be possible to manage with the power of my Divine Protections, the real meaning is something like 'don't mind the details'.

However, because I was told they couldn't leave everything to me it was decided that I'll have a couple of extra people help me.

[Do you have any requests?]

[Well, since you're asking. Please lend us several people who are good at archery.]

A total of 8 combatants and 2 messengers were prepared.

I don't remember their names from when they were introduced individually, but I was surprised that there was a woman among them.

When the introduction ended, we head towards the West gate at once.

It's only a short hour before the attack. It took time because of that idiot.

Ayla and Raru's group were waiting outside the West Gate. Even though I already explained to the assistants about our subordinate monsters, they still seem uncomfortable around them.

We are prepared to intercept, but before that we dig a ditch about 200m from the gate. it's about 50 cm deep and it covers an area of about 25mx50m.

Raru's group has already almost finished working on it.

Next, we prepared a formation of several panic ghosts in the forest.

Finally, Amy, Zir, the assistants, and the goblin archers were gathered in front of gate. They're behind a 5m tall improvised brick wall we made with earth magic and water magic, and dried with wind magic and fire magic.

I should study how to make concrete some time.

The exterior of the brick wall is curved so that the inside has a gentle slope making it possible to retreat towards the gate, while on the outside it looks like a vertical cliff surrounding the gate.

I also considered digging a pithole outside the wall, but I gave up on it due to lack of manpower.

I told our archers not to venture out by themselves as they might get hit by enemy projectiles.

We completed our preparations ten minutes before the arrival of the monsters.

It's thanks to Zir that we had enough time to prepare.

『Master, The ones being lured by the smell will arrive shortly.』

[Is that you, Zir?]

I heard Zir's voice from the approaching ghost behind me. This one is called a whisper ghost and has the power to deliver the voice of the human who summoned it.

[Please tell me earlier if such a convenient ghost is available.]

[Sorry. But Master, We've hardly been apart since the day you bought me. No good opportunity to talk about it appeared either.]

[So it is.]

The monster vanguard had appeared from the forest while I was speaking with Zir. they come toward the smell which drifted from the ditch beneath my feet.

Half of the monsters were afflicted with [Panic], and were rushing towards the [Demon's Perfume] which drifted from the liquid from the ditch.

With room to spare I cast Firestorm towards the leading monsters.

The firestorm used the flow of air to send a breeze of [Demon's Perfume] adrift towards the forest.

The monsters who appear as the vanguard mostly consist of light-footed beast monsters and flying-type monsters.

The flying type monsters spun in the air because of the violent turbulence created by the magic.

Moreover, the wall of flame was cast in the front of beast-type monsters on the ground to stop their movement.

This way both groups were driven to the same place and were finished off by the firestorm.

[Fuu. Now it’s time to sweep the monsters that escaped.]

The vanguard numbered only 50 monsters. more are coming.

15 minutes behind the monster vanguard the main forces arrived at last.

Around 30 percent is in a state of [Panic], but we don’t know what effect this has on such a close formation of monsters.

Orcs, fragrance ants, and armor mantis… There were a lot of familiar monsters. They’re approaching at an amazing speed.

Finally, the main force reaches the center of the ditch which we dug earlier. A thick red liquid fills the ditch which was the origin of the smell. This is also my trump card.

[Ruby, you can eat now!!]

And then, the liquid in the trench forms tentacles towards the surrounding monsters and restrains them. The ones who escape the restraints are deprived of their freedom slowly by the new tentacles that appear at their feet.

[Welcome to the [Slime Pool] (kanji: mucus paradise). Make sure to not drown while having fun!!]

One by one the monsters fascinated by the [Monster Perfume] were

inflicted with [panic].

To this end the monsters are enjoying their tentacle play and their lotion play all around me. To be honest, I didn't expect such hobbies other than in hell.

[Owner, I request an explanation about tentacle play and lotion play]

That [Lewd Book] seems to be doing just fine at this time as well.

I blew the monster whistle while ignoring it (TN: he means the Lewd Book). Right away the goblin force led by Raru comes from the behind of monster horde, pushing more of the monster horde into the [Slime Pool].

[Raru, good job~]

Only Ayla and me are besides the [Slime Pool], but we efficiently finish off the monsters who keep resisting.

30 minutes later, Raru's group has pushed back all the monsters into the [Slime Pool], and completely encircled the ditch.

Because Ruby can't distinguish between Raru's group and the invading monsters in the ditch, my job is to push back the monsters who try to run away.

The monsters who still remain inside the ditch numbered around 50. Ruby absorbs the monsters into its body with its skill and dispose of them in an instant. (TN: The monsters)

[Yosh, it's all good around here. Zir, how is the east gate?]

[Let's see, the east gate is not yet breached because everyone is

fighting hard]

According to our plans the battle around the east gate relies on the town walls. Although they've used a lot already they make use of offensive items at the base of the walls.

However there are a lot of tricky monsters left like skeletons and nitro powder butterflies. (EN: seriously how does the author keep coming up with these names)

[Does the east gate stand a chance to win the battle?]

The Necromancer who released the zombies in town might control the skeletons.

I pass Raru's group some potions while I make preparation to rescue the east gate..

[The main unit has arrived already and the majority of the monsters are clinging close to the gate itself. Although we keep attacking from the town walls with throwing stones and magic, it seems we won't be able to defeat them all.]

We decided to initiate an attack from the side of the town walls near the East Gate. The invading monsters are already reduced by half so it'll probably work out

I informed our assistants of the strategy and let them go ahead to convey it to the East Gate.

I'll have them help Zir out over there.

As soon as Raru's troops have finished their recovery we received a

report from Zir that the combat preparations for the assault is complete.

『If possible I'd like you to come over as soon as you're ready.』 (ED: said by Zir through whispering ghost)

[Understood, I'll let you know before we begin the attack, so please stop throwing stones and magic attacks at that time.]

『I get that, I already let everyone know.』

[I see. oh, we've arrived already. I'm starting the attack now.]

We charge the monsters who cling onto the gate.

While swinging my sword Raru and I form the vanguard.

We charge the monsters. Several Orcs were sent flying.

Using the momentum of the charge we distanced ourselves again from the monsters. Before the invading monsters could reform their lines we charge again.

I cut down the Ogres who stand before me with my sword. The monsters blown away by my attacks are groaning all around me.

Once again we make the best use of our momentum and take some distance again. The monster might become accustomed if we continue the hit and run tactics, so instead of charging again we adopt a tight formation.

Rather than engaging in another melee we switch to long-range magic attack.

[The necromancer boss doesn't seem to be around, huh.]

While I was saying that, the earth started rumbling from the East.

When I looked to see the origin of the noise I saw a giant near 20m tall approaching us.

[C-cyclops!]

Indeed, there is only one big eye on the giant's face. This is a cyclops.

The giant slowly approaches the adventurer town. It's like it was ridiculing our victory after repelling the large horde of monsters a moment ago.

(Author note:) A bit short this time.

Chapter 41

[Damn it, we're done for!]

[Why, is it like this…]

There was a feel of resignation from the surrounding adventurers. Like the adventurers, even the guild was responding negatively.

During that time I was thinking.

Right now, the adventurers who remained in the town are the ones who were not chosen for the rescue party.

They are probably inferior in both abilities and mental strength than the first-class adventurers.

But, where did this gigantic creature come from?

[Master, that is a zombie as well.]

When you look carefully, there are indeed several parts which are rotten.

The reason why we were unable to recognize it, is because something like that didn't originally exist.

[This might be the enemy's last resort.]

[Perhaps it is so. The scout ghosts also disappeared from the town's environs. Most likely because of that Cyclops' power.]

Most of the large horde of monsters were already defeated, so they decided to use this last trump card.

Although, I don't know why they didn't summon the Cyclops inside the town.

The Zombie Cyclops is coming towards us at a slow pace.

The town's ramparts are about 15 meters. If this fellow comes near, it'll be the adventures on the rampart who will be struggling when the Cyclops swings down its club, which is as big as itself.

It's over once the Cyclops reaches the rampart. The wall which is suppose to protect us will instead be a lethal weapon that can crush us.

If we want to defeat him, there will not be a better situation such as now.

Do they also notice it? The Lord which was on the rampart began directing a coordinated magic attack.

There were various kinds of human magic gathered on the rampant, but it was amazing that there was no visible difference in the degree of magic.

With this, it seems I can launch a strong attack too.

At the Lord's order, the magicians launch the fire magic together.

The fire magic that was shot, flew in an arc and crashed into the Cyclops' chest.

Everyone, but the magicians, cheered.

The magicians who shot the magic have practically fainted from exhaustion due to the magic attack.

It seems they were already exhausted from the battle against the large horde of monsters.

When the smoke from the direct hit of fire magic cleared, it looked like the neck bones were broken and the Cyclops' head was dangling and swaying on its left side.

However, the pupil which continues to watch us is unfazed.

The adventurers were dumbfounded because the Cyclops who received the direct hit has not stopped advancing.

[Hey, mister Lord!! It's useless. That cyclops is a zombie!]

The Lord reacted to my voice. Even though I remembered his voice, I don't know the Lord's name.

Then a pale light emitted from the Cyclops. When the light was gone, the damage on its body disappeared.

It's the very same thing that happened to the Skeleton Warrior and Zombie Mother.

[Zir, do undead automatically regenerate?]

I think the Zombie Mother regenerated automatically.

[No, but it does not mean this absolutely impossible, it merely requires a particular tactic since a summoner's wilt is necessary for the regeneration of undead, except for special entities. T'would need a tremendous amount of magic for every regeneration. That is why t'will automatically absorb the Summoner's magic every time it hath fallen.]

In other words, there is a mastermind somewhere nearby.

Moreover, there is most likely a traitor among the Adventurers. A traitor to humanity.

[Zir, I'll try to keep the Cyclops at bay. Meanwhile, please somehow find the summoner.]

[Very well, although this quite a troublesome task, it is not impossible.]

[Ayla, sorry but follow me. Amy will cooperate with Zir.]

[Yes, Master.]

[Please leave the caster to me.]

After making sure that Zir and Amy return to the town, Ayla and I headed towards the Cyclops Zombie.

To prepare to intercept the Cyclops who is moving closer, we're standing 200m from the gate and restoring our physical strength and magic by using a potion.

As for LaLu's troop, which is in charge of the ranged archery and magic attacks, they divided into smaller units in order to help me fight the Cyclops Zombie.

As for Ruby, because the digestion from the overeating earlier is not finished yet, it was in a state where it couldn't control its volume so it came to the west gate. I think it will be alright since I stationed some goblins there.

[LaLu, direct the ranged forces to attack one of its legs. Also have the

close combat force buy some time by attacking with their spears, but don’t have them get too close to the target.]

When LaLu acknowledged the strategy, the Goblins began to move according to the command.

There were 16 soldiers consisting of Goblin Archers and Goblin Mages aiming for the Cyclops Zombie’s right leg from the outer most range for launching arrows and magic.

Since the damage from an arrow is low, they used a fire arrow instead.

It seems they understood it is effective when they witnessed the earlier fire magic attack. Those guys sure are clever.

The approaching combat force is also concentrating their attack with their spears according to my instructions. These fellows are also securing a safe line for the ranged attack which is aimed at the right leg.

The Cyclops advancement is slowing down after the Goblins’ attack begins. Well, even its walking pace will be stopped if we destroyed its limbs even though it’s a zombie.

I didn’t just leave everything up to LaLu and aimed at the left leg. Coating my sword with [Recovery Magic], I swung at full power.

The left ankle is partially cut down, and the Cyclops will collapse and come to a stop if a dozen more cm are cut.

It seems it’s unable to regenerate. At this rate, we might able to defeat it without waiting for Zir.

While I was thinking about that, the Cyclops Zombie began to tear and eat its own right leg, from mid-thigh to ankle.

It might have done that so the foot which was already torn could be regenerated, though it seems that the Cyclops Zombie has resigned itself to defeat.

[But still, after using it for awhile, it's a fact that [Recovery Magic] is really effective.]

When the Cyclops Zombie tore it's own leg, and therefore came to a complete stop, it was possibly to buy time for better footing.

While I was thinking, the Cyclops Zombie raised its right hand, and its club, which was a tree as thick as my body, came raining down from overhead with terrible force.

Dangerous, I can't evade it in time. With my eyes still fixed on the club, Ayla came running from my left side at great speed.

Don't come!! Before I could shout, Ayla is facing the club. She jumps and turns her body in a triple axel in the air.

The moment she is about to make contact with the club in the air, the [Protection Charm] on her right hand strikes the club and spins it around forcefully.

The club is sent flying, and the Cyclops Zombie falls down on its bottom.

I don't know how that unlikely phenomenon that happened before my eyes occurred, but suddenly the answer appears in my mind.

The effect of Ayla's [Protection Charm].

Protection Charm +5

[Shock Reflection] +5

Reflects any attack with a certain probability.

It's the so called knock-back.

Originally, the purpose of the effect is for defense, but it's seems it's also amazing as an attack, as seen just now.

[Master, are you okay!?]

Ayla asks me in a panic.

[Yeah, I'm saved. Thank you, Ayla.]

[No, it's the natural thing to do.]

I saw the Cyclops Zombie trying to stand up, so I made a hole about one meter wide using earth magic near its right hand which destroyed its posture.

When he heard my voice, LaLu instantly understood my intention. Before the body posture is adjusted, the close-combat team moved and aimed at the Cyclops Zombie's limbs.

During that time, I apply [Recovery Magic] onto my katana. In order for the magic power of [Recovery Magic] to circulate, it will be better to remain in contact with the affected area.

However, the Cyclops Zombie had recognized this move after being attacked several times by it, so it tried to quickly cover the rotten parts. Even though this is just normal [Recovery Magic] it's still very practical.

Because of my cooperation with LaLu, the Cyclops Zombie had both of its hands fixed onto its feet, resulting in a bridge-like posture.

Now, if only Zir can find the summoner and stop the magic. Then after staying in a bridge-like posture for 15 minutes, the Cyclops Zombie finally disappeared.

=== Change POV to Zir===

As of now I am heading towards the town from outside the ramparts to accomplish the task on behalf of my Master.

Master had requested of me to search for the magic of a necromancer, other than my own, and put a cease to it.

Since it is a request from my beloved Master, I will do it splendidly.

[Although, whither could that necromancer beest?]

Amy gave a heavy sigh from behind me. Such an impertinent fellow.

[Zir, why did you just unthinkingly return to town?]

[T-this not the case. Uh, see over here, there is a possibility that the necromancer is among the adventurers.]

My master had said that, though I do not know the reason.

[Let's see. The timing for the Cyclops' appearance was too good, and above all the preparations for this must have been meticulous.]

Indeed, I too concur and nod in assent.

The Zombie Mother's attack to the interior. After that, the certain overwhelming horde of monsters, and then, if only to just breakthrough the defense, it was the opportune moment to use their trump card.

Well everything was dealt with at an early stage due to the fact that it had not escalated into a serious matter, the demons came up with dull tactics like that. That is what I believe.

[This monster attack is so suspicious. But, I don’t know if someone can manipulate monsters in such numbers.]

[Forsooth, it appears that the monsters intend on attacking this town gravely.]

[In other words, the other party is most likely [Evil God Religion] followers.]

The reputation of the [Evil God Religion] is not very well taken. Us vampires do not worship the God of ordinary humans and demi-humans.

Therefore, it has been called by me the name [Evil God Religion].

[I see, let us be careful.]

The monsters might have been given to the [Evil God Religion] followers by the Evil God.

In other words, there is a possibility that the caster is still near the monster that was taken from the Evil God.

Unh, unh, a large amount of magic is flowing towards the outside of the ramparts.

This might be the caster sending magic for the [Recovery] of the Cyclops Zombie.

[Amy, follow me. To the top of the ramparts.]

[Eh? Ah, the magic flow was discovered. Understood. Is the caster still up there? Let's go together.]

How did you find it? All the same I didn't ask. She seems to be able to instantly perceive the flow of magic.

We have moved onto the ramparts at once, but there are 100 adventurers on top of the ramparts right now.

From amidst this, finding a necromancer will be even more distressing. I say, this will be troublesome.

Then, 'Zudon' a dreadful sound was heard from outside of the east gate. What the, it would appear that the source of that sound is the Cyclop Zombie falling on its behind. As expected of my Master.

When I overheard the chatting, it was Ayla who had made the Cyclop Zombie fall.

Incidentally, while everyone was looking at Ayla in ecstasy, there was one person who was looking at my Master with hatred.

[T'would seem that sir is the caster.]

[That person? That looks like a normal person.]

[Is that so? Allow us to capture that man.]

[Alright.]

When Amy and I approached from the back, the caster fainted.

The reason this was so, was that my Master had passed me [Stun Ball], a bullet which was created from a magic stone.

I had heard it is a magic stone which was poured with [Shock Magic]. Master said anyone who had this thrown at them will be unable to move their body for a moment.

[With this, is it alright?]

[Seems so, we can doth nothing except to hark to what the person himself hath to say.]

The Cyclops Zombie who was unable to move could not take getting disgraced. I could not bear to gaze, but it will disappear now that the caster has fainted.

[The Cyclops zombie has disappeared!!]

A cheer was raised all around. It seems everyone is sending up a praise for my master. At last, the long night has ended.

Chapter 42

After the Cyclops zombie was annihilated, I asked LaLu and his group to be vigilant of the town's surroundings, then I joined up with Zir.

Zir had a smug look on her face.

A man who was suspected as the criminal was on the ground fainted at her feet. Both of his arms were tied behind his back.

Amy might be the one who did that.

[Master, the caster wast captur'd as per thy command, the aim wast to find a dubious person and I most certainly hath found one, and thither wast nay need to even use mine powers to do't.]

I didn't mishear what Zir just said.

[Wait a minute, without using your powers he was found at once? No way, did you just aim for any suspicious person!?]

[Forsooth, I didst not know who t'was until I notic'd the magic supply. I merely intend'd to do't as Master instruct'd.]

Looking at Amy, who was hastily picking up the body of the man, I wondered whether it was best to ask if she also knew about that fact.

Well then, what should we do? Just when I was thinking about how to deal with him the man had awoken.

[Uhh, good morning.]

I greet him for the time being, since I don't know what else to say.

[Damn!! Why did you know that I am the necromancer!? I had camouflaged the flow of magic, and fought the monsters to avoid being suspected!!]

Uwaa, he confessed. He really was the mastermind.

I'll give Zir a reward for finding the mastermind later, as well as a punishment for attacking people without any confirmation.

[It's because I sensed no seriousness in your fighting and movement in the battle. Also, when the Cyclops zombie fell, you showed an annoyed face, right?]

The other adventurers didn't understood why I was able to see through the real identity of this man. When I said that, they agreed with me.

The caster, hung his head in shame after he heard my explanation.

[Awesome, aren't you. To be able to confirm such happenings on the ramparts while participating in combat.]

That middle-aged Lord said some unnecessary things. (ED note: Even though in the raw it is possessive, I think according to the overall context

it should be describing the lord)

[Ah, it's because from the very beginning I felt suspicious to a certain extent. Later on, I paid full attention only to him.]

This uncle is satisfied with that, I see. Is it okay for the Lord to be convinced with this kind of explanation?

[For the time being, I'll take custody of this man. Hibiki, I am very indebted to you. I'll give you the rewards later. As expected from [Annihilation].]

The surrounding adventurers also collectively muttered [Annihilation]. Even though we took great pains in coming to this town, we have yet to be released from such a strange nickname.

When I heard [Goblins] and [The Disciple of Flame Whirlwind] mentioned, I had various worries, but I decided to quit caring about it..

I left the criminal to the uncle and returned back to the inn. Probably because the vicinity became brighter, the town had begun the hustle and bustle of the morning.

As you would expect, although it was probably not a usual day, the town was overflowing with vigor.

[Master, I want to meet Ruby before we return to the inn.]

When Ayla said that, I remembered the MVP of this battle was Ruby. Even though I'm worn out and want to return home, how could I have forgotten about him.

I'll let Ruby eat the magic stone of [Shock Magic] as a reward and apology. I don't know if it's delicious or not though.

When we meet Ruby on the outside of the gate, it had already returned to its normal size. I patted it while telling it about its reward. Ruby might be pleased because it reacts with a 'purupuru'.

We took Ruby back and returned to the inn. I carried out the treatment and recovery for all the injuries as soon as we arrived to our room. Since everyone's injuries were no more than scratches we took the opportunity to have a bath and wash off the dirt. What a pleasing sight for sore eyes. Yes, a very pleasing sight indeed.

[Master, why I am being left at this place?]

[Book of Wisdom] is right now under the bed. Last night, I remember it observed intently when I had a pleasant time with Zir, so I put it under the bed which was out of its line of sight.

[In my country, books which are hidden from other people, will always be concealed under the bed.] (TN: Ero books~)

I didn't necessarily lie to the [Book of Wisdom], I just didn't tell it why.

[I see, it's certainly dangerous to put out a book with such a high value as me at the place where others can see.]

It was only you who called yourself high-value. I didn't want ero books to be seen by other people, but I didn't say that. If you're satisfied with this treatment, I don't care.

[By chance Master, doth thou possess [Divine Protection]?]

Zir must have heard that I have [Divine Protection] at the Adventurer's Guild.

[Yep, why do you ask?]

[I just want'd to ask. However, if this be true. I see.]

Zir is agreeing with herself with a *unun*.

[What is it?]

[No, I feel that I understand why I failed to make Master into my servant. But, you have displayed more than adequate combat strength as well.]

[That matter is a secret.]

[What, am I not trust'd yet?]

[It's not like that, I also didn't explain about my [Divine Protection] to Ayla and Amy either. This does not mean I don't particularly distrust you.]

My multiple [Divine Protection] can't be spoken of to anyone. Ayla might have also suspected about my [Divine Protection] when I cured her curse.

Even though it's a matter of time before my [Divine Protection] is found out by someone, if that happens there might be people who'll come and examine it.

At that time, if whether Ayla and the rest know about my [Divine Protection], this could easily be gleaned from our daily life.

They will not learn anything by torturing a [Slave who isn't trusted], also a [Slave who isn't trusted] might not be taken hostage if the master thinks the slaves are disposable.

So if you see it from the outside it will be a [Master who doesn't trust his slaves]. This way, it should lead to the safety of the girls.

All of this done for their safety..

So I told Ayla and the rest about what I was thinking.

Then, Ayla clung on to me with watery eyes. Amy firmly held my arm and said her thanks.

Zir, she was blushing and turned her face sideways.

It had become more brighter outside the windows, so we slept while embracing each other. Even though I didn't drink [Youth Medicine], I felt that I was able to do everyone more than usual.

When I woke-up, the evening sun was shining through the window.

[Ugh, so dazzling.]

It was not possible to continue sleeping with my face bathing in the sun.

Although I tried to run away from the sunlight by pulling the sheet over my head, I was unable to move because Ayla and Amy were both using my arms as pillows.

On top of that, Zir was holding my legs as a hugging pillow. What is with this happiness.

[Did you wake-up, Master?]

I heard a voice from under the bed.

[Good morning, [Book of Wisdom]. Were you able to sleep well?]

[Aye, I do not require sleep. I will enter a dormant state however when I am lacking magic. Rather than me would it not be better if master received sufficient sleep.]

[Yeah? But why?]

[At the beginning after you get into bed, you were unable to sleep, right? Although this place is quite comfortable, do you mind if you could dust next time? There is dust falling down whenever the bed is creaking.] (TN: Night battle is so intense)

[That's, sorry about that.]

[I do not mind.]

Ayla on my right side woke-up when I had that foolish talk with the book. Since both of my arms were at my limit, I moved Ayla and Amy off, then Zir peeled herself off by lifting her upper body up.

Because we were hungry, we went down to the first floor to have a meal. But, the dining room was already crowded.

[Hey isn't this impossible? Let's go eat at another place.]

[It's crowded earlier than the usual.]

[Where should we go?]

From Zir's shout, we decided on [Quantity over Quality] which is the popular choice among adventurers, so we headed towards [Unicorn's Neigh Pavilion]. This place has numerous dishes with bold flavors and quite a substantial quantity of them center on demon meat.

I would come here everyday if I was by myself, but two of my female comrades are not good with food that has a bold taste, so we rarely come here.

I don't have to worry about Zir because she can eat it without trouble.

When we entered through the door, it turned into a scene within the shop. The clerk guided us to our seats with a smile, but we were uncomfortable.

Everyone in the surroundings were looking at us.

Since I heard the word [Annihilation], we were most likely exposed, I guess. Since it feels like we will be defeated by this atmosphere if we rise from our seats, I decided not to worry about it and order something.

[Clerk-san. What is the recommendation for today's dish?]

[Hi, good afternoon, we recommend the Giga Buffalo stew and the Speckled Bird thigh saute.]

Hmm, having both dishes might be impossible, because there will be too much food to eat.

[Which one does everyone want?]

When I asked the three people their opinion, Ayla picked the saute of the thigh meat, Amy said both were good, and Zir wants the stew. It's splendidly scattered.

Nothing can be done so I'll have everyone order what they want separately, when I was thinking that…

[The stew is delicious, [Annihilation]-san.]

I heard someone's voice. When I was about to thank the uncle on the other side…

[No-pe, the saute of the thigh meat is so delicious. It's good as a main dish for dinner.]

Several people in the surroundings were nodding with an *un-un*, and then…

[Idiot!! The thick meat in the stew is the most delicious one.]

The uncle who suggested stew earlier began to object.

As I thought, several people in the surroundings nod in agreement.

And then, the opinions started flying one after another.

Oh my, it would be wasteful to have a belly swelling from the stew, and not be able to eat a lot of the sautes.

Right now the Speckled Bird is in season, but this year's Giga Buffalo meat also has good quality.

This year the rain was scarce, the quality of demons have gone up, and from this cuisine has gradually been left behind.

Because Zir's stomach seemed to be at it's limit, I asked a plate of both dishes for the time being.

The clerk and the uncle in the kitchen were not fazed at all, it's indeed an adventurer hangout.

[Yes, sorry for the wait.]

[Oo, it seems delicious.]

Both dishes came out at the same time probably because the kitchen was coordinated. As for the other customers, our food had barely touched our mouths when a riot became imminent.

We quickly ate the stew. The texture and the bold seasoning of the meat from the Giga Buffalo was so amazing.

Next is the saute. Yeah, I felt like there was quite a various array of saltiness which means they must of used rock salt.

[Both are good.]

I turned the plates over to Ayla and the rest to taste. Ayla had the thigh meat, Amy the stew, and as for Zir let's say she was eating from both dishes.

After I decided to eat both dishes, I asked the clerk for an additional order.

[Aa, you've already eaten them!!]

The uncle who had noticed it was moving closer to me, I told him that both dishes were delicious.

As it is now the uncles who were continuing to chat seem to both be adventurers. Although the uncle who had recommended to me the stew was said to be at the Guild meeting, I can't honestly remember.

Riding on the momentum of last night's story, I don't know who proposed it, but we started a drinking contest.

When the two uncles were talking to me, a pair of young men decided to participate on the spur of the moment, and then Zir and I joined.

It was unreasonable for Ayla and Amy to drink, so the best thing to do was forbid it, and after nailing that in, the drinking contest commenced.

In the first half, everyone quietly stood up and gave a toast and when the wood of the fellow tankards collided only a dry sound arose. Then everyone calmly emptied out the contents of their tankards.

When the contest was reaching the mid-point there was a new development. There's no problem if you drink at your own pace, but the two young men who tried to match the uncles drinking speed, went

down early.

Those uncles looked on and smirked as the two young men were defeated. They're still green and have a ways to go, this is why young people are… they grumbled.

Zir and I, focused on our own drinking pace, and we safely increased our count.

When the contest had approached the last stage, the two uncles' and Zir's pace had begun to slow.

There was one unaffected participant, from the onset I only drank at my own pace.

Why am I able to be strong at drinking? It was an easy trick because I recovered my abnormal state [Drunk] using my [Divine Protection].

I noticed this method when I was on that escort job back then, I probably might have been killed by that Mimic Orc on the way back. I'm so lucky.

No matter how many I drink I only get slightly drunk, it's better than being completely drunk, isn't?

The stew uncle brought out his treasured sake merely to turn the tables with a one-shot contest.

The odor of alcohol from that sake was so strong it was able to make you drunk even without you drinking it. Without any hesitation the tankards were emptied and the uncles and Zir fell prostrate on the desk.

[The winner of the drinking contest is [Annihilation]!!]

I don't care anymore, it seems the name [Annihilation] has already taken a hold.

The two uncles were handed over to their companions who came over, I carried Zir, who has become unable to move, on my back. Before heading

out from [Unicorn's Neigh Pavilion] I asked for the bill, but the clerk only smiled and shook his head, pointing behind me.

Apparently, it's a treat from all the senior adventurers. I was confused at first, but soon said thanks. And then…

[It's to express our gratitude.]

[Yeah, we would have lost this town if you weren't here.]

I received many words of thanks. I get embarrassed by everyone's gratitude and quickly left the shop.

[Master, everyone said thank you.]

[Yeah they did.]

[It's somewhat embarrassing to hear.]

[Yeah, it can't be helped I am also embarrassed.]

[Kufufu, Master's achievement~ with this amount~ these thanks~ quite sufficient~]

[You, walk by yourself, won't you?]

[Naay, tis comfortable up hither.]

Because Zir doesn't want to descend from my back, we headed straight back to the inn. The surroundings of [Unicorn's Neigh Pavilion] are already dark.

[Let's return quickly. Tomorrow, we will confirm our loot in LaLu's village.]

[Yes, I also want to give a reward to Ruby.]

[Tomorrow, it is very likely we will be sorting the items. Will the goblins help, I wonder?]

[Kufufu. Kufufuu~]

We return to the inn, after preparing a little bit we then immediately go to bed.

While I understand that once again the [Book of Wisdom] will complain tomorrow morning, the plan is to scatter the dust below the bed tonight.

Chapter 43

The next day we headed off to the goblin village in the early morning and thanked Lalu and his group for his hard work.

Lalu seemed to be happy about it, but then his smile darkened a little bit.

“Did something happen?”

Lalu threw a fleeting glance towards the house behind him.

Looks like someone’s inside there.

It’s the building we often use when we stay over here. It’s filled with important items like the tools Amy uses. The goblins don’t go inside unless they have permission to.

Are there any goblin children playing inside? Well, it’s not a big deal if it’s just going inside but it would bother me if they play a trick with the stuff inside. Let’s put a stop to that at least.

I open the door carefully

“Oi, don’t touch my stuff, alright!”

There were no goblins inside.

Inside was a strong-willed looking woman and a woman with a gentle

atmosphere, both half undressed.

"W-who the hell are you!?"

"Ara~, good morning. You look quite human for a goblin, do you not~."

I quickly got out of the house.
Since it can't be helped I'll just have to wait for her to get dressed first.
Amy seemed displeased with why I had to wait outside.
After a while a voice came out saying 'enter'.
Upon hearing it Amy's mood dropped again.
I entered while calming her down.

"Who the hell are you?"

I start questioning the moment I came in.
I had already pulled out my sword and held it in my hand.
Having to wait outside had slowly started to irritate me.
I'll let these people know how things stand right away.

"That's my line. Who are you people? This is our house."

The strong willed person turned my question back at me with a *humph*.

"Answer my question. Who are you people?"

“… I see. You’ve no intention speaking with me. Fine, I won’t bother to ask any further. Just get out, now.”

“I refuse. I must protect Flora-ojousama.”

“As if I give a damn. Why do I have to put up with people squatting in my house who won’t even properly respond to my questions? If you don’t get out right away I’ll force you out. By the way, all goblins in this town are my allies.”

“Huh, are you stupid? The goblins of this town don’t attack people. We’ve already confirmed this.”

I see, Lalu was ordered not to attack people more than necessary. Because of this these interlopers were permitted.

Probably when the girls were first noticed by the goblins they didn’t attack, so the goblins ignored them.

And even when they entered this house the goblins still didn’t touch them.

“The fool here is you. You didn’t even think of a reason why these goblins didn’t attack you? I’m the chief of these goblins!”

“Wh-at”

Because this house is mine the goblins don’t enter it. The one who ordered them not to attack people is also me. If you finally get it then get out!”

“No way, if we leave now we’ll get attacked by different monsters.”

“Frankly my dear, I don’t give a damn. I intended to listen to your circumstances with an open mind at first, but thanks to your attitude I’m quite cured of that.”

They probably sneaked in the day before yesterday. I’ll have to properly leave behind some guards next time.

“Grab your stuff and leave. Return anything and everything you found in this house. You… you even got your hands on our food. Don’t you guys make a fine bunch of thieves.”

“Thieves!? Take that back!! I’m a proud knight-” “A proud thief?” “That’s wrong!!”

(ED note: This line part of the text is Hibiki interjecting. that explains it. so far I’ve never seen 2 people speak on the same line and the grammar made no sense.)

Surely, calling them proud thieves would be very presumptuous. Even a third generation monkey-face has more pride than them. (TN I don’t understand this reference)

“Well then, [Proud Knight]-sama. Explain to me where the pride is of someone who selfishly sneaks into someone’s home, wolfs down their food stores and acts high and mighty when the master of the house returns with a drawn sword pointing at their neck?”

I dispassionately corner the knight.

Even that M-sister would apologize at this point.

If they still don't apologize and leave I'll just evict them at full force.

"I-I must… Flora-ojousama…"

"Ah, so this is all because of this lady then. It must be tough, being a [Proud Knight], isn't it?"

Finally she collapsed on her knees.

Incidentally, why is it that while we're having this discussion that lady is sitting over there amusedly playing with Ruby? The simple-minded Ruby is just sitting there jiggling like it's smiling.

"Well then, ojousama. Since this is my house if you could…"

"Ah, that is true was it not. Lovely place you have here. When I arrived the day before yesterday I was so tired I fell asleep right away. I am sorry for my belated greeting."

She gracefully picks up the edge of her skirt and bows. If anyone tried this in my previous world they'd only get laughed at, but if a true ojousama does it somehow it starts to look appropriate.

"My name is Flora Caprice. I was told by father to go to Welburg for a while. When will we be able to finish our departure towards the city?"

I get it now. This person is seriously not right in the head.

It seems that this Flora girl is the daughter of a nobleman in Bureto.

On the way to Welburg they must've been attacked by monsters and lost their wagon, coachmen and guards – or they all ran away.

And this woman with the bad attitude who was left seems to be called Frey.

They were probably attacked by the monsters who attacked the town, as they say they were attacked nearby.

... Hmm?

If that's so couldn't it be said that it's my fault that they were attacked? Well, there's no reason to go out of my way and tell them that.

Talking with the ojousama isn't getting anywhere so let's try and wake up the female knight Frey, who's been mumbling 'I'm a proud~' on the ground for a while now.

I collect a wooden bucket and fill it with the water outside and splash it on her face.

"Uwa~rgblh, wha-what are you doing!?"

"Hey, [Proud Knight]-sama, I'll close my eyes to the whole trespassing thing, but I'm taking a fee for bothering me, alright?"

"You do all this and demand to be paid on top of it too!?"

"What is this? [Proud Knight]-sama is okay with just taking other people's property? I see, so that's how a [Proud Knight]-sama thinks. To a proud knight other people aren't even people at all, is what you're saying."

In the end Frey agreed to pay us for the use of the house and having us escort them to Welburg.

We didn't really exchange a contract, but if Frey breaks her word I'll make sure her reputation sinks so low she won't be able to continue living as a knight.

The only problem we faced when leaving the goblin town was that we have no wagon suitable to carry the ojousama.

For us going to Welburg by foot would only take about 30 minutes and we intended to leave like that, but Frey objected vehemently. It can't be helped.

Using a cart as a base I built a palanquin. (TN: looks like a carriage but is lifted by people and carried instead of using wheels)

It took a while as I got a bit too much into it, but the result is quite impressive even if I say so myself. By the time I'm finished it's already noon.

Since the palanquin grew in size a little I had Lalu and his men carry it.

I used their help a lot in the events a few days back so it's already known in town they're under my command. It's fine if they're seen at this point.

Even if someone says something about it, it should be fine if I have them carry it up to the gates and then dismiss them.

"Today we're not using a carriage I see."

"My utmost apologies, ojousama. If it doesn't suit your refined tastes I'll make immediate arrangements for a carriage."

“No, having the goblins carry me seems like it’ll be fun.”

“Seeing that it satisfies you is important above all else, ojousama.”

Frey who had recovered a little is a bit annoying, but it matters little. Since it’ll turn into evening if we keep wasting time here we’re leaving at once.

We see good progress on the road towards Welburg. Well, it’s all Lalu’s territory so that’s to be expected.

“We’re not being attacked by monsters at all. How come?”

“Because all of this is goblin territory.”

“How do you manage to control these guys?”

“Effort and spirit.”

“… Why did you order them not to attack any people?”

“I did that when I was feeling irritated. I’m reflecting upon it now.”

“Don’t mess with me!!”

I reply letting out an exaggerated sigh.

“Now listen here, I replied evasively because I don’t really want to answer. Does a [Proud Knight] not know any tact at all?”

Frey grew sullen but held her tongue.

After walking a bit further we exited the forest and the city’s ramparts became visible.

“O~h, so that’s Welburg. I hear it’s an adventurer’s town.”

Frey seemed to have recovered her high spirits upon seeing the city.

“Ojousama, the city has come into view.”

“Is that so? Whereabouts is it? Also, when we arrive I want to have some tea. It has been two days since I last had some, after all.”

“Yes, certainly. I’ll will prepare some at once when we arrive.”

This girl really isn’t quite right in the head. Were you drinking tea on the road until you were attacked by a monster then?

After talking a bit more we arrived at the gate.

The guy guarding the gate was startled seeing something come over from the goblin town, but a smile appeared on his face when we got closer and he recognized me.

“Welcome back. Will you be entering the city with these goblins today?”

“Thanks. Would it be bad if I did?”

“Well, I guess it’ll be alright. They’re carrying the palanquin after all. They all listen to your orders, right?”

The goblins were accepted into town without any annoying formalities.

“Alright, where can we drop you off?”

“I should have a word with the local lord. Please bring me to his place.”

We walked straight towards the lord’s castle in the center of town.

The lord came and met us on his own. It’s probably hard to miss this commotion.

“Miss Flora, I’ve been worried about you. To think Hibiki-kun would be bringing you along…”

“Giren-ojisama, It is good to see you after so long. Did we arrive a bit late?”

The lord’s name suddenly came out. Turns out he’s called Giren Brooks.

Giren gave us his thanks and told us about the necromancer we captured the other day.

“The one who incited this man wasn’t an evil god but a demon. It’s

possible there's still a demon on the loose in this city."

Peace is truly an ephemeral thing in this city.

Chapter 44

When I was guided into the castle along with Flora and Frey, there was something going on in the courtyard.

Looking closely, it seems to be a match between adventurers.

[That, it’s to decide the shares.]

[Shares?]

[Yeah, if multiple parties participate in a quest like this, representative matches like these are being held in order to decide how to distribute the shares after the completion of the quest.]

When asking for the details, it seems to be common on big quests like these. The materials and items obtained in the quest could be obtained by the adventurers who didn’t participate in the quest.

Of course, when participating, you need to pay the registration fee. For the bet they must prepare a decent amount of materials and items for the adventurers who didn’t officially participate.

We already got our share of the materials and items after doing the quest of investigating the town, and those who didn’t participate are deciding in a match who get’s what is left. Of course, we didn’t know that.

[Hey, that’s [Annihilation], right?]

[Yeah, you’re right.]

I somewhat noticed them as they approached us in a friendly manner.

It was uncles Stew and Saute.

[Yo, will [Annihilation] also participate in the competition?]

[Competition?]

[Yeah, the goods confiscated from the seized Necromancer's house are the wager for the competition.]

Although Zir had already defeated that man… As I thought so, I looked at the flustered Giren as he started making excuses.

[N-no, the fact is that I issued an invite for the competition for you all, but it seemed like you weren't at the inn. I certainly had requested the landlady to pass a message.]

[I see. Well, the competition will start this afternoon so you went to inform me at the inn before noon.]

[R-right.]

Apparently, the lord doesn't want us to participate in the competition.

Perhaps, this competition was held as a reward to the adventures who participated in that counter attack from the other day.

We have already obtained a large amount of monsters' materials and items. That's why, they probably didn't want us to take the competition's prize.

Unfortunately, when we went to the lord's castle because of our errand they got discovered, but if the Adventurers' Guild had not come for the

competition in the courtyard, then we wouldn't have been noticed.

[I guess being a lord is also hard in various ways. Bearing a grudge against someone like me is also part of his job, huh.]

[N-no, please wait a minute!!]

If they asked us for our cooperation in the beginning, then I would've been alright with it. However, this method is too underhanded.

What a stupid man. If he didn't do things like these, my anger or my reward, either would've went well.

Or rather, first it's Frey, then Giren, as I thought you can't underestimate this world with all the dodgy business I've been dragged into after all.

[Of course, I'm planning to participate too.]

[O-oh, I see.]

It seems magic is allowed in this match, and weapons are also allowed. There doesn't really seem to be any rules other than you'll lose if you kill your opponent.

The competition began as soon as I finished registering to participate.

My first opponent was a leather-armored adventurer using an orthodox short sword style.

Without words, the signal for starting the match was given.

At the same time the signal was given, my opponent rushed at me. I imbued [Water Magic] (TLN: plain water) on my katana and parried the incoming sword in front of me.

As my katana imbued with magic and his sword clashed, the imbued magic activated and a decent amount of water was sprayed in different directions.

As our weapons clashed many times, our bodies got drenched with the sprayed water.

At first, he evaded the water as much as possible, but then noticed that the water was not harmful so he ignored it.

Preparations finished. I casted [Wind Magic] and created a gentle flow of wind within the plaza. All that's left is to buy time.

After 10 minutes, my opponent's teeth were chattering with *gachigachi* sounds, his lips were turning purple, and his hands were turning numb from the cold that he dropped his sword a few times.

The symptoms of hypothermia occur when the wet body is exposed to wind, rapidly cooling the core body temperature. Therefore no matter how much a body is strengthened, there is a limit.

If there are a lot of muscles then the body will generate more heat, so there will be a difference in time, but they will all eventually end up like this.

After being satisfied that he was mostly unable to move, I knocked his sword away and let him surrender. With this it's my first victory.

The people around became noisy. Saying [Black Magic User], [Curse], and other things, but it's fine.

If they think it's something mysterious, then it's a success.

The second round started after a break. The next opponent had a long sword and was wearing full-bodied metal armor. Probably participants

from outside, maybe Team Hyena.

Well, he paid the cheap registration fee so there was no problem.

The enemy, making use of his full-body armour he slowly drew closer to me. As it would be bad if he closed the gap, I swung my katana imbued with [Water Magic] at my opponent.

My katana was avoided but he got sprayed by the water. He should be showing hypothermia symptoms soon, but after 20min his movements did not dull at all so I devoted myself to defense.

From here, I'll be able to check my opponents stats properly.

When I did that, the [Heat Insulation] effect was granted to the full-body armour. The effect has probably been there since the beginning.

Within the armor heat is confined and is prevented from escaping, and it also has the effect of protecting the body inside the armor from receiving fire-based attacks.

No wonder his body temperature didn't drop because of the water.

[Damn, I blundered. Even though it's been awhile since we have been doing PVP, we have never battled against Gun Vorde, and I should've confirmed his armor's effect beforehand.]

While the going's good, I slightly changed the magic imbued in my katana.

As usual, my katana's oozing out water and my opponent's not minding it.

Did he know the contents of my first match? Or was he purely just that confident his armor can prevent it? Either way I don't know.

After clashing 5 times there was a clear change in my enemy's appearance.

He was squirming and his body shook violently. He scratched and tore at the surface of his armor trying to tear it off.

At last he realized there was something wrong with his body. His breathing became rough, and his body trembled.

However, he was not trembling because of the cold.

Both of his hands were squirming. His back itching. Around his neck, there was something crawling around.

Yes, his whole body was itchy.

“When I noticed the effect of [Heat Insulation], I fine tuned my magic and altered the water imbued into the katana a little.”

When that water touches skin, that area becomes intensely itchy.

As he was conscious of the itchiness he has no way of resisting it.

He scratched all over the armor and determined that he couldn’t reach the itch no matter how hard he tried. He began to despair that it would never fade.

He let go of his sword and rolled on the ground but the itchiness didn’t fade.

Finally, his eyes rolled back and he let out his last breath.

[Winner, Hibiki!!]

Once again the surroundings were loud. Next time they probably won’t be so defenseless enough to take my attack again.

Well, even then, I did think of a few unblockable attacks though.

I went back to my corner of the plaza where everyone was.

[Well done. Master.]

Ayla greeted me with a smile as her tiger ears twitched. She was probably happy that the people were saying that I was amazing.

[As expected from master. What did you do to your opponent?]

While giving me a towel, Amy asked.

[I'll tell you about it later. Right now, there are spies everywhere.]

Hearing that, Giren's ears twitched but he did not glance toward us.

[However, that's a really strange technique. Master, are you also a [Black Magic User]?]

[A black magic user, what kind of job is that?]

[No, master's incomprehensible way of fighting is what made you be referred to as a [Black Magic User]. You're using a sword, but can also use magic at the same time.]

[Fuun, is that so?]

The third round had a small interval. There seems to have been several prolonged matches.

The next contender was wearing metal armor over his vitals and used a spear-like weapon. When I asked later, it seems it was called a Glaive.

At the end of the handle, that acceded 2m in length, was a single edged blade. That weapon seems to be limiting our approach.

At the same time as the start signal, the point of his blade was aimed towards me and prepared to intercept.

Pointing my katana at the enemy, I cast [Wind Magic] to surround the enemy with wind.

However, I wonder if he had a magic-resistant armor, because he had a confident expression, but my aim wasn't the man himself.

I was working on the air around him.

Enclosing the enemy loosely with wind, using [Fire Magic] I throw a fireball inside the wind barrier.

I pretend to aim at the enemy so that suspicions were not raised, however the moment the fireball touched the armor it vanished.

But it's within my calculations. I concentrate my mind on the remains of the fire, preventing it from growing too big, but on the other hand, removing oxygen from the fire while making sure it doesn't go out.

After 5 minutes had passed, he started to become dizzy and soon fell. It's because of oxygen deficiency.

I immediately put out the fire and sprinkled the area with water to cool it as I undid the wind barrier

Well, it's not really that hot, but when Backdraft phenomenon occurs, it's difficult to deal with.

[Winner, Hibiki!!]

It looked like many opponents would fall before they properly understood what was going on during the 3 matches. My fame as a [Black Magic User] escalated further.

I won the fourth and fifth rounds without difficulties, and finally, I advanced to the finals.

My opponent for the finals was a greatsword user with a height of 2.5 meters and a width of 50cm. (EN: about 8ft and 1.6ft; is he a giant? that's huge)

I saw his match at the semi-finals and it seems he's a power type swordsman.

The greatsword user was confident of his own power, and just charged straight towards me.

I let him get close to me as much as possible, then evaded his blade with a paper-thin margin and landed a blow on his side with my Zetsumu.

Of course, I hit him using the pommel rather than the blade so that it does not kill.

While groaning he bent his body to hold his side. It seems that even with that he hasn't lost the will to fight.

It can't be helped, I imbued [Shock Magic] to my katana, adding shock damage to my attacks. With this, no one will know what will happen if he gets close to me.

That man, having an anguished expression, recovered his demolished posture again, then he collapsed to the ground.

[Match ended. Champion, Hibiki!!]

From everyone's perspective, I fought fairly at the finals and won as a result.

The opponent too, he couldn't do anything about it so I guess it's alright.

As the match was over, Ayla and the others were running up here.

[Congratulations, master.]

[Thanks, Ayla.]

[Congratulations on becoming the champion.]

[Yeah, thanks Amy.]

[Master, thee art still stout yea if thou square normally. But wherefore didst thou not square normally back then?]

[Even by a little I wanted to raise the winning rate, I guess?]

As the three were being noisy about praising me, I was approached by Flora and the others.

[Hibiki-san is truly strong, no?]

[Yeah, no, ahaha, you really did win the competition, I've been beaten.]

Flora seems to be purely impressed, but Giren has a little complicated look on his face.

Thank you for the speech, but I'll press you for answers here as well.

[Giren-san, I'm looking forward to the reward for the subjugation of the Necromancer.]

[Y-yeah, right.]

Giren looked away from me, but I don't plan on holding back against this uncle.

[No, I'm looking forward to it. What will the town's lord and the guild's branch chief Giren-san give me?]

Giren let out a big sigh. You get what you deserve.

Then Frey, who was silent up until now spoke.

[It was a good fight. But, what was that fight before the finals? Isn't it just fighting cowardly?]

[The [Proud Knight]-sama is like 'I can nobly die if I fight fair and square', but I have a reason I have to live even if it means being underhanded.]

[What did you say!?]

[Yeah? You angry? In the first place, what part is unfair? What did I do to call that unfair?]

[Don't play dumb!! You defeated your opponent using some incomprehensible attack, didn't you!?]

[Then, should I say [I will attack you with this kind of attack, so be careful] thus, I should attack just like that?]

[Wrong!! Just fight fair and square-]

[Then, just because birds can fly it's unfair? Are monsters unfair too because of their claws and fangs?]

[Why is it like that!?

[From the weak's perspective, knights are [Strong and Cunning] you know?]

[W-what?]

[Just because we're strong that's why we should settle it with duels? [I don't need the opinions of the weak!!] Like that.]

[You bastard, you dare to insult a knight!?]

[Weren't you the one who insulted my way of fighting first? In the first

place, if you weren't an idiot and thought about it then you would've come up with a counter-measure.]

[If we don't know what it is, we can't have a method for a counter-measure, you know!!]

[Then, on the battlefield [Um, I don't know what kind of attack that is, so please stop] would be said, knighthood is such an easy job.]

[...Unforgivable. Let's fight!!]

[Haha, look at that, as soon as there's something she doesn't like she immediately resorts to her duels.]

[Shut up! Just fight me!!]

Frey has completely snapped. Oh well.

[Well, what would you do if you lose?]

[What are you talking about!?]

[If I lose, I'll apologize about the insult that I've said. Well, what would you do if you lose?]

[Fuun, there is no reason I'll lose. If that happens you can do whatever you want!!] (EN: harem flag, lol)

[Okay, then it's settled.]

Suddenly, I got an exhibition match organized against Frey.

Chapter 45

Frey was already waiting with her full equipment on. I came a little bit late to the plaza because I had to retrieve something from Ruby.

[So late!! Again, I thought you would launch a sneak attack.]

As Frey said that, I responded to her words, with the provoking answer that I already had prepared, with a straight face.

[What are you talking about? Here I've already done how many matches now. Of course, the preparations are done. Ah, I see, can it be that it's only good if [The Proud Knight]-sama boasts of herself?]

She signaled the referee to begin the match immediately. This duel is gonna be the exhibition match of this tournament.

As might be expected, the strife born of a personal grudge against each other was not easily recognized?

[Haaaa]

I manipulate the ground below that idiot Frey's feet, and a hole is created.

It's the move that was also used on the cyclops, however this time it was easy to create because the scale was small.

Her foot vigorously plunged into the hole and she fell over, after rolling several times Frey finally stopped near me.

When she tried to stand, she got dizzy and unsteady on her feet.

I set the tip of my sword to Frey's face without missing the chance.

[Yeah, it's my win.]

[Wa-wait!! That just now was weird!!]

[…You, are you gonna say those same lines to brush it off even on the battlefield?]

[U, b-but…]

[Oh well, I will accompany you as many times as you like.]

[I-I see. Yosh, I won't be defeated as long as I don't relax my guard!!]

And then the second match began.

Once again, I kinda understand the meaning of [Cowardly] when the idiot Frey kept thrusting in the same easy manner.

[Sei, yaa!!]

It's indeed sharp swordsmanship, but it's still easy to dodge if I concentrate on defense.

I opened the [Anesthetic] bottle which I received from Ruby earlier, it drifts towards Frey's surroundings because of the wind.

[Haa!! Koryaa~ Htoraa~]

When her voice slowly became inarticulate, seeing that it was a good time, I flicked off the sword from her hand.

[Yea, it's my win again.]

[Higu, this method, such cowardice~]

'Not done yet' since she said this, I'll wait for about 30 minutes until the effect of the medicine cuts in, the third match is done.

[Th-this time for sure!!]

This fellow seems to not have learned at all. The idiot Frey is coming from the front this time so I used [Water Magic] to test the new experiment.

The mucus lotion was created from the use of water magic, it went through Frey's hands.

[Wh-what is this!? Damn, it's so slimy.]

Frey who was perplexed watching the lotion for the first time, tries to put some effort.

At that moment, her beloved sword fell from her hand with a *supon* sound.

Panicking, she tries to pick up her sword with the hand smeared with lotion, but is unable to grasp it.

At the current state, the third match ended but it's wasteful to just end it like that.

I called a large amount of mucus lotion, and pour it on Frey's head.

[Uwappu]

Frey who was drowned in the mucus was having difficulty breathing and did her best to support her body.

Her head fell down into the lotion pond many times.

The wriggling Frey who was covered fully with mucus was kinda erotic. Oops, Amy is smiling while looking at my direction. Somehow it's so scary.

I decided to finish it early because the pressure from Amy.

[That's right, you had plenty of chances.]

[Y-you bastard!! Why don't you fight seriously!?]

[I'm already fighting seriously. If I get a say, are you even fighting seriously?]

[Well, are you an idiot? Every time, always doing the same charge attack.]

[Don't look down at my charge attack!!]

[Well, do as you like. Because you will always defeated.]

[D-damn it.]

[Then, do you still want to do this?]

[Of course!!]

It seems because of the mucus it made her voice nasally. The mucus was washed away by water magic, even the clothes were dried by fire and wind magic.

Even after I did all of that for her, there is no gratitude and the fourth match began.

Have you matured a bit this time? She doesn't do her usual charge attack and is looking for a chance while staring at me.

After looking at the situation for awhile, there was by no means any movement so I decided to approach.

I briskly reduce the distance between us and when she entered my sword range I immediately swung my sword.)

Seems fine to me except I have no idea what to do with ポケ, it got tled as poke (Hawaian raw-fish salad))

However, I kept pursuing her. Frey was rolling on the ground and her body posture was destroyed due to avoiding my attack.

She got cornered to the edge of the plaza, the fourth match ended.

[Done yet…] [Here I go!!] [Is that so.]

She seems kinda frustrated, her eyes were already watery.

The fifth match. Slowly, I will knock down Frey seriously.

[Here I go~]

I kindly call out before launching an attack. I manipulate the wind and received the tailwind from behind me to accelerate. [Selection] recognizes if the opponent's sword is facing towards me in a straight line.

Although Frey tried to intercept, she was a bit slower. It was almost the same timing when my sword and Frey's sword took stance, my sword was already stopped 1cm from the side of Frey's neck.

[Frey, do you still want to continue?]

[Think this through. I won't be so gentle next time. You saw how my earlier matches went, right? How my opponents would tremble without being able to move, or how they would collapse with their eyes rolled back, or how they would fall over without me even touching them?]

[Uuh]

[Should I come at you with an even crazier attack? Like one that'll make you spew blood from your entire body perhaps, or maybe an attack where you won't die no matter how many times I cut you. No, not 'won't die', but 'can't die'. Well? How about it, Frey? Want-to-keep-going?]

That kind of technique was not developed at the moment, yeah, at the moment.

[I-it’s my loss.]

[[Loss], eh?]

[Hii, i-it’s my defeat, please forgive me!!]

[Yosh, we’re gonna do your punishment game later. Don’t forget you have to do five times worth of games.]

[Fi-five?]

[Yes, how many times did you lose against me?]

[Fi-five, it was.]

[Right? So it’s necessary to do five of them, isn’t?]

[Y-yes. You’re right.]

I’ll hold the enjoyment of Frey’s punishment game for later.

Now is not the time to be playing around, but it is necessary to hear about the talk of demons, that are apparently in this town, from Giren.)

===Change Scene=== (TN: I added this to make it easier for reader)

[Apparently, it’s not the Evil God who instigated the necromancer, but

the demons.]

I received the report when I arrived at the castle a moment ago.

[Although I have heard about it a while ago, is there any more detailed information?]

Giren most likely has the most information about it because he took custody of the necromancer.

As Giren said, the necromancer seems to have met the demon in this town.

He was presented with the corpse of the cyclops, because the plan was attacking the town with a large horde of monsters during night time, it seems he received instructions to incite confusion in the town by using the zombies.

[I'm completely hopeless. I didn't know there was a demon in this town.]

[However, the culprit said he met it in town.]

[Well, it could be a hoax.]

[So that's why, as for your reward for this case, I'll present to you the [Demon Detector].]

[Demon Detector?]

Demon Detector was a tool which requires a lot of time to create, it also needs a large amount of magic crystals to start it.

Therefore, it's certainly an expensive item. Although the effect was kinda limited, but to present it as a reward was more than enough.

[It's true, although usually it's not permitted to borrow it due to the fact that this is the Lord's property, but only for you I have made an exception as a present.]

Special exception!! I was pointed at by Giren.

This guy, he will drag us to do demon hunting this time.

Why is it so special to send me? Is it just a logical calculation?

[I see, then I have received it. Well then, Ayla, Amy, Zir, let's return to the inn for now to prepare things because we will leave the town tomorrow.]

[Wa-wait a minute!! Why do you need to leave?]

[Why is that? There is a Demon inside the town, isn't there? Isn't it dangerous?]

[A-aren't you just thinking about only yourselves!! I have even given you the expensive [Demon Detector]!! Consider the town's crisis a little bit!!]

[You think I care only about myself, don't you? Whoa, aren't you a fellow who only thinks about themselves and complains about their troubles to

their comrades, besides wasn't there an incident where you seized other people's spoils?]

[U, guu]

[What's the matter Lord-sama? There was no one who thought about that? Ah, now that I remember, I apologize for the delayed report? Of course, you don't mind it, right?]

[O-obviously!!]

[So, I did not do it on purpose. But, I am just a nuisance. Then, what should we do?]

[What more do you want!?]

[It's not like I want something from you. But, it's seems to be troubling you. I was just thinking that I will be unable to work pleasantly in this town.]

[However, that is, it can't be helped!! Besides, there is nothing that I can possibly give you anymore.])

Giren finally became frantic. I guess it's about time.

[Yes, I understand. There is a reward for other adventurers, right? Then let me have your word so that the mood does not deteriorate.] Not entirely sure about this)

[Uuu]

[Let’s do it like this, Giren-san is the one who is considering about this time’s matter. Right?]

[Th-that is correct.]

[Then, give a guarantee to put myself as your top priority in the future by making a [Contract].]

[Co-contract?]

[Yes, let’s start at once because there is a fellow among my slaves that can practice the magic of [Contract].])

The contract is the following,

If Hibiki is in the town of Welburg, and if there is something happening, the right to guard Giren Brooks will be given to Hibiki as top priority.)

2. However while abiding point 1, Hibiki has the right to go meet Giren Brooks once per week.

3. If point 1 and 2 were broken, all properties of Giren Brooks will be transferred to Hibiki.

[Wi-with the agreement of this contract, you won’t forget?]

Giren confirmed the contents of the contract many times while asking

me.

[Yes, of course. The [Demon Detector] is a fine reward for the defense of the town [Welburg] and of the arrest of the [Necromancer]. If this contract is concluded, the matter of report mistake will be wiped clean.]

Giren was relieved. The magic of [Contract] was not absolute. It's possible to cancel it as long as someone has [Contract Termination] of the same rank.

Originally, an important magic [Contract] should not be able to be broken like beeswax.

When a merchant broke their contract with [Contract Termination], the credibility of the merchant will fall.

Conversely, the number of contracts signed can also lead directly to the evaluation of the merchant.)

However, Giren is not a merchant, this contract is also not publicly announced. It means, that it's possible to do [Contract Termination] anytime.

He let down his guard because there was no statement to cancel the contract in the contents.

However, this contract is a [Contract of Blood]. To begin with, there is no such thing as [Blood Contract Termination] so it's impossible to revoke it.

When he notices it later, he will receive a shock.

[With this, the contract is concluded.]

After both sides accept the contents of the contract, the two people will spill their blood drop by drop onto the contract paper. This [Contract of Blood] is really old fashioned and ancient.

Because blood is literally necessary for the contract of blood, so it's useful this time.

Although the request of the Demon Subjugation will be received again from the Lord, the payment fee is not bad.

My bosom is warmed because of the [Gratitude] received from Frey and the rest who were brought along until now.])

When we triumphantly left through the castle gateway to face the head of the Alchemist Guild branch, we ran into Frank.)

[Oh, Hibiki-kun. Amy-kun.]

[Frank-san, for what reason are you here?]

[Not much, I just heard that a large amount of monster materials arrived, so I came to confirm and stock-up.]

I see, it's the monster materials from the necromancer incident earlier. But, for the head of the branch to make the purchase himself…

[Yeah, if I don't see it with my own eyes, I won't be satisfied. And for tomorrow, I still have a lot of work to do.]

Tomorrow? What day is that again? When I was thinking, Amy pulled my sleeve with a pale face.

[Master, tomorrow is the delivery day for the white porcelain!!]

I completely forgot about it. I haven't prepared for it at all. I hurriedly

went to the Goblin’s village with Lalu.

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Author’s note:

The next chapter is about Frey’s past.

Frey, I will focus on her a bit because there are opinions about her uselessness as a guard.

Chapter 46

Author's Note: It seems I did continuously made the same sentences. Corrected.

======

I am, Frey*Kokusu, from i was small till grown-up is always being bullied with my elder brothers.

Father, entering our family name into the aristocracy, after did distinguished military services on combat against the monsters as a Knight.

I am the youngest child with 4 siblings and also the eldest daughter at home. My older brothers always said want to become knight when they are still kids. When there are examination to enlist as Knight corps in the town, they took it after they grown-up.

Mother send off my older brothers with a smile, so when I am growing-up, I want to become a Knight too, I kept repeated it to myself.

I was a frail from my childhood, so I am unable to express my opinion nor intention to my surrounding, I can always nodded to my mother.

After my brother who is 4 years older than me entered the Knight corps, my body has growing-up steadily.

There is no older brothers who bullied her, but even though her body

growing, but she is still timid.

Everyday, although I'm not suitable as a Knight, but I kept training everyday.

During the continously indecisive state, I invited to take enlistment examination when I was grown-up, I passed it even though I believed it was a mistake.

After that, training, I did training everyday. So I can become more stronger.

I was undefeatable in sword sparring against everyone. Before long, I was being called the most promising young Knight and it made me high.

[Anyone come at me if you dare!!]

The next day, I was beaten-up with my senior Knights. None of my technique working against them.

Afterwards, whenever I met any of my senior knights, I was being made fun, they were laughing at me who is on the lower ranks.

My mind went broken. I was originally a timid person. After being big-mouthed, I lost all of my confidence.

As the result, everything that I did is useless.

I was being defeated by my opponent who should I can win over due my spirit is broken.

I was unable to move on when there is a pitfall due my worry.

In the end, I would be crying during the combat practice. And, my blunder reached the blunder limit.

At last, I got nickname [Crybaby] Frey.

[As I expected, I am not suitable become a Knight]

I didn’t joined the training and shut myself inside the room in the lodging house on the next day after I cried during practice session.

At first no one noticed me, but after three days everyone who shared room with me become worried.

After two weeks passed, I’m still not coming out from the room, the instructor came to the room and shouted at me.

Several months passed, it’s another season for apprentice knight graduation.

No one worried about me anymore because the apprentice knight graduation. There is also no free time during the graduation either.

Half of the apprentice knights were assigned to the knight corps on this town. And the rest of remains is already decided before being enlisted.

I am, was planned on the former, but after my instructor abandoned me, most likely I’ll be driven out from this room as the same time as the graduation.

Most likely I can still lived on this lodging house until today because my father plead. Because the title “Knight” can be obtained as long as you’re

graduated, he asked the teachers for it.

And on the day of graduation day, I was given a minimum luggage by my older brothers, who I don't know why father gathered them today, and then I was taken on the carriage.

I was staying obediently, even after three days passed I am still don't know nor heard the destination of this carriage.

The carriage stopped in the front of a big mansion and went gone after dropping me and my luggage.

When I was began worried, the maid shows-up from inside the mansion and pulled my hand.

[This way, Frey-sama]

I had been guided to the mansion and put in the bath at once. I am certainly smell bad because didn't taken any bath for three days.

When I was going-up from bath, a luxury underwear and armor was given to me. Did they will made me fighting after this?

After I ended change my clothes, brought by the maid and taken in the front of a certain room.

When the maid knocked with knock-knock, there is a man's voice from the inside the room.

[Welcome, to Capri Mansion. Are you Frey?]

Inside the room, there is an uncle which the age is 50 years old. Is he

and my father is the same generation? I was being welcomed with a radiant smile.

[A,ano]

[I have heard about you from your father. You will guard my daughter, rather I want someone who can talk with her]

A talking partner. If it's like that I can do it. However, it's unnecessary to provide me an armor for to be talking partner.

[My daughter is always yearning for a Knight. Because I can't allow a male knight to be near her, so I decided for a female knight]

I see, so a knight decoration. This might suit me well.

[But my daughter is a little bit strange, so I hope you don't mind it?]

[I, I understand. I'll accept the task of guarding your daughter]

It's already become a habit to make attitude as Knight when I was still on apprenticeship. The carprice lord nodded, and brought me to her daughter which I will guard.

The daughter, is drinking the tea in the garden on mansion. When she noticed the Caprice Lord called her, she smiling brightly when saw me.

Like meeting a Goddess. I'm fully obedient. The situation gives an encouragement feeling on this fleeting atmosphere.

[Good afternoon, are you my Knight?]

[Ye,yes. I am Frey*Kokusu. I have been tasked to guard Lady Flore from now]

I gave greeting while being tensed.

[Please take care of me. Frey]

[Yes]

My life starting like an event of fairy tale after being appointed as Knight of Lady Flore.

On the morning, after finishing breakfast, I went to lady Flore's room, Lady Flore is still sleeping on her enclosed canopy bed.

This fantastical situation made me hesitate to wake her.

She is always wake-up when I'm prepared myself to call her name.

[Good morning, Frey]

[Good morning. Lady Flore]

The person who is charge to take care of her begin to help change her clothes immediately on the room. There is no stain on the lady Flore's skin, it's as smooth as silk.

After lady Flore finished changed her clothes, we're moving to dining room.

I was standing on her side until lady Flore finished eating. I don't get tired at all just by watching over her.

Usually, I got a regrettable feeling after her meal ended.

When finish her breakfast, lady Flore usually spend the day with enjoying the tea in the garden. Sometimes, she give greeting for the guest visiting the mansion.

[Nee, Frey. You are strong, right? I, I want to see you fighting]

To realize lady Flore wish, several swordman were called to the mansion. Lord Caprice is very gentle toward lady Flore. (TN: Doting father~)

I am, who is secretly ran away to this place, keep showing calm face when facing the swordman.

My hand who holding the sword is trembling. But, it's only matter of time before everyone in surrounding know the truth.

My throat were dried-up. I remembered the unpleasant feeling stuck on the back of my throat when I forced swallowed my saliva.

[Start!!]

It's starting at last, why Lord caprice made this kind of treatment despite saying I'm just a decoration knight?

The swordman wield his sword slowly. He might be holding back. Because it's not gonna be a show if the duel ended soon at once.

I avoided the sword attack without any difficulty and I wield my sword quietly. The swordman noticed my sword, but he is already too late to avoid it.

There is no necessary to make slow movement to avoid it. When I was thinking it, I change the sword moving trajectory a bit.

The swordman body posture got destroyed. My sword is already on the my opponent throat.

[Gi, give up!!]

I won the duel just like that. From the surrounding, I heard the praised voices.

Eh? Is he defeated on purpose?

I am certainly a Knight of lady Flore even though just a decoration. It might be already decided that I'll win the duel from beginning.

When I was looking on the Lord Caprice, his face were surprised and looking at me. There is no way for a senior noble acting that improper.

The next sword man is also not showing an impressive movement either, so I ended the duel by send him fly with my swordplay.

The spectators gives thunderous applause. Is this really my ability?

[Awesome, Frey. There is one person left. Good luck~]

Lady Flore cheering on me. I will shows her my full strength. I requested the next opponent at once.

The third opponent is stronger than the previous two people.

My attack were repelled with sword, and he aimed for my vital points when I was relaxing my guard.

But, I have regained my combat sharpness after the previous two duels. I countered his attack without any difficulty.

When we are already clashed sword around ten times? His feet were staggered due tiredness.

I am immediately took advantage from it and with the differences of our physical strength, I flicked the opponent sword.

I heard applause and praise from my surrounding again.

[Whoah, awesome. Frey, you're not inferior than your father on swordmanship]

Lord Carprice is very excited and clasp my hand. I felt a little bit pain on my and due he gripped firmly.

[Frey. That's really awesome performance. As expected from my Knight-sama]

Lady Flore praised me.

[Ye, yes. Thank you very much!!]

Today, At last I have become a true Knight. The [Crybaby Frey] went into joy on the day.

Several days has passed after I am fully like become a Knight.

After that day, the time when I accompany lady Flore is increasing more than before.

[Frey, there is an unusual flower blossoming in the garden. Let's go to see it together]

[Frey, let’s take a bath together with me]

[Frey, let’s have breakfast together]

[Frey]

[Frey]

[Frey]

I am decided on my heart that I’ll be use more for the sake of lady Flore.

I made an effort to become a Knight whom lady Flore hoped.

Lady Flore’s Knight, stronger than anyone. Who doesn’t run away from the enemy.

Lady Flore’s knight, always fight fair and square. Always become the winner.

Lady Flore’s knight, who gonna guard the master on everytime.

And then, passing various trials with the aim become the knight who is lady Flore wanted.

Being the winner against the horde of monster alone.

Challenge duel with many knights, and always gain victories.

Gives foods to the poor childrens in the slums.

Accepting lady Flore’s dangerous request. I did it with pleasure.

Two years passed after I worked as Knight for lady Flore, there is instruction from Lord Caprice to left the town for awhile.

Apparently, a large horde of monsters were approaching the town.

[I understand. I'll guard lady Flore without fail]

Even though I already said that, there are 4 adventurers were prepared as guard along with the wagon coachman.

Lord Caprice is sure worrywart father. Even though it's annoying, but to save the Lord's face I accepted the guards.

The several days we're going out the town is going well. The guards have necessary skills needed on the forest..

The Lady Flore stayed obediently in the carriage, we're able to get 70% dangerous distance safely.

However, the guards become made a commotion when we're almost reaching Efuberu town which is our target.

[Knight-sama. There are a crowd of monsters around here. It become impossible to continue for awhile]

[This, we should change the road]

The guards made a plan.

[I see, so how long the schedule increase?]

[Let’s see, the schedule will increase a day because the detour]

Is the food and water suffice?]

[Yes, it’s safe. We have prepared a lot]

Thus, we made detour to reach Erubefu.

Although we’ve attacked several times by the monsters, we managed to repel it without damaging the wagon.

[During this detour, how many monsters type should be?]

A man starting to say something.

[This is, isn’t the erubefu is dangerous?]

It seems the guards begin to consider to run away. I called them.

[You guys, what are you saying]

[But, Knight-sama. This is nearby erubefu you know? If we’re keep our pace we’re gonna arrive before the evening of today]

[Do you will leaving us here!?]

[Not that. It’s because it’s weird there are monsters appear in this place]

[Is there any possibility there is a large crowd of monsters nearby?]

I laughed on their opinions.

[If it's a large horde of monsters, they should heading to Bureto. There is impossible another horde to appear]

[I, it's as you say]

Several hours later, we meet a large horde of monsters after this conversation, no one saw this coming.

[Ha, ha, ha, milady Flore, are you alright?]

[Ha, yeah, ha, I'm alright]

Lady Flore answered with mixing out of breath. She might gonna reached her limit slowly.

We've attacked by a large horde of monsters, we abandoned the wagon and running away. As for the adventurers guard, I saw two of them died. The other two were ran away, we're most likely unable to escape if we didn't following them from behind because we're completely surrounded.

The coachman, he is the first person died when the monster attacked.

We are get down from the wagon while the adventurers were attacked by the monsters, we're running away desperatedly.

[For the time being, there is seems no monster in surrounding]

[I see, I felt tired after running away in sudden. Let's search for a place to resting]

There is seems no tension on lady Flore. To begin with, don't you understand the current situation is dangerous for your life?

[I am very sorry. All of your luggage is on the wagon]

[Well, that's terrible. Can't we do something about it? There is my favorite tea set in there]

To mention tea set on this moment. No, this is probably a joke to calm me down on this extreme situation.

[I am sorry. To recollect them is impossible]

[I see, it can't be helped]

It seems a joke after all. Her interest were lost immediately.

[Today, let's take a rest in someplace in somewhere]

[Yeah, if there is any house nearby]

[Yeah]

This one too, must be a joke.

A little bit, it’s been a noisy in the front of our direction. When I was listening attentively, it seems not coming from a person.

[Gigi-]

[Gi, gi, gi]

There are 50 goblins in there.

I endured to not screaming for a moment and use my hand to my mouth.

When I was worrying if lady Flore gonna screaming like me, I saw her eyes were sparkling.

[It’s awesome, a real goblin]

[Milady, please lower your voice a bit]

[Ee, oh yeah. I’m sorry]

Apparently, the goblins seems gone to other place. A goblin who is bigger than others were lead them toward somewhere.

The goblin villages become quiet at once.

When I was watching the surrounding, lady Flore entered the village.

[M, milady. It’s dangerous. There might still be a goblin]

[Nee, that house seems suited for human to live. Can we stay resting there for today?]

It’s certainly the house which pointed by lady Flore, is way bigger for goblin. Is it for human? There is a human who live closes this tribe?

[We should not do it. We don’t know what is the inside]

[It’s alright, because Frey will defeat if something happen]

After said it, lady Flore walking to the house. I’m surprised the house is not locked.

[There is no one here. Frey, I am hungry]

Lady Flore begin to search something in the house.

[Look, there is foods. Frey, is it possible to cook it?]

[Don’t. We shouldn’t do it without permission]

[But, I am, is very hungry, you know?]

In the end, I have defeated with milady appeal and i took the food. We're apologize and accept it gratefully.

As for the day, we're put away the bed in the house.

Recently, because we're often sleeping the open sky, our tiredness might already collected.

It's already morning when I was woke-up. I don't know the surrounding for a moment.

When I see the windows, there is someone looking into the house.

I wonder who is it. I stand-up from the bed and look through the windows, there is pair of goblin eyes from outside the windows.

[Uwaaaa!!]

It's most likely surprised by my voice, the goblin on outside the windows were run away.

[Ha, Lady Flore!!]

I suddenly remember our current situation, i can't found lady Flore in the house.

Don't tell me, did she went out?

I put my armor in hurry and went out from house with my sword on my hand.

When I'm checking around, I found her.

I'm running when I saw milady seems being surrounded by several goblins.

[Milady—]

Surprised when heard my voice, the goblins were running away in various directions.

[What is it, Frey?]

[Are you alright?]

[Yeah, I'm playing with the goblins-san]

[It's dangerous. Let's return to the house now]

I am, took lady Flore hand and turn around back to home.

After that, I'm calmly understood after observing.

Apparently, the goblins seems not gonna enter this house.

Because, when I was prepared myself, opened the door, saw their appearance, and understand. Even though they were looking inside, they never coming inside.

Also, they seems not gonna harm us.

This one also, I confirmed it after I tried to approach the goblins.

Our safety seems temporary secured.

However, I unable to confirm how we can get out from here. I decided that we're safest stay on this house.

I'm eating the food while remember the guilty. I went to sleep at once after the meal to recover my physical strength.

Tomorrow, I'll manage to leave to Efuberu, perhaps we will immediately reaching it. Or perhaps we need one day because don't know the

direction.

[I want to wash my sweat]

On the next day, Flore-sama said that.

Fortunately, there is a space for bath on this house. I prepared the hot water for Flore's bath.

I am also want to wash my body with the remaining hot water too. Flore-sama finished bath quickly to avoid catching the cold.

We're endured to wear the same clothes again.

[I want to wear my favorite dress]

I want to apologize when I heard it. During that time, why I am not able to escape while gripping the one of the bags.

When I was about to apologize to lady Flore, the door which never opened, is open..

[Oi, I want to remind you, don't touch anything inside the luggage.

I am, as the Knight of lady Flore must looked strong. So I made a determination, and asking to the man who suddenly appear.

[Yo,you, who are you!?]

Chapter 47

When we arrived at the Goblin's village, Lalu and the others dug up the earth around its vicinity.

Because there was 50 of them, the dug up earth that was everywhere soon became a mountain.

[Ruby, I leave it to you.]

Under my instructions, Ruby began to eat the pile of dirt. It's for the sake of making [White Clay].

The mountain of dirt that the goblins had undauntedly made was disappearing one by one.

[Okay, this much should be enough. Lalu, you can drop the digging pace a little.]

The pile of dirt that was dug for 30 minutes was then eaten by Ruby. Under my instructions, we resumed digging while switching with the other goblins so Lalu's group could rest.

Inside the house, Amy and the others were preparing for the [White Porcelain].

[Master, the preparations here are finished.]

Amy reported while Ruby took out the [White Clay] it had created. Then we promptly started to make round plates.

[This is difficult. I can't make it completely round.]

[Ayla-san, move your hands like this to make it completely round.]

[Kufufu, the sensation of this clay is quite indescribable.]

We were talking while making the plates.

Ayla isn't suited for this kind of work. The more she tried to create the plates, the more she broke them.

Amy got familiar with the method on her second try. She offered advice on how to make it to Ayla.

As for Zir, it seems she liked the sensation of the clay. She thrusts both of her hands into the mass of clay, plays with it and massages it softly.

As expected, making an amateur suddenly make a completely round plate is hard. We should have made a potter's wheel in advance for this.

With this, the only ones who can properly make it are just Amy and me. Well, we should be able to make 20 plates by tonight, so we'll manage somehow.

As we were silently making the plates, the goblins brought in more clay. Is Ruby still eating the earth outside?

[Hm? You want to do it too?]

As the goblin brought in the clay and watched us work, he said he wanted to join in.

I had the interested goblin participate in the plate making because it

might be valuable.

[Wow, you're pretty good.]

The goblin that joined in had dexterous fingers, and soon finished a plate that was a satisfying product.

Because several precast plates had been done, they were handed over to Amy to glaze them, and finish up the final product.

Looking at the completed [White Porcelain], Ayla and Zir touched it while being surprised.

[Amazing, it's luster is like a jewel's.]

[Truly, tis quite quaint.]

[I want to inspect it thoroughly by all means.]

[Kyaa!]

The owner of the voice, came from within the bag that is at Amy's waist.

[That's unexpected for you, [Book of Wisdom]. Are you interested in making plates?]

[Yes, Owner. I'm interested in things that I do not know.]

I took out the curious [Book of Wisdom] out to see the [White Porcelain] on the desk.

[Ohhh, this luster. It is wonderful. I would like to know how to make this by all means.]

[Let's see, if you don't talk about this to others until we die then I don't mind teaching you.]

[It is natural not to reveal the production method. I promise this.]

I told him the easiest way to make it. The [Book of Wisdom] was saying *I see, I see* while listening.

By the time it darkened outside, Zir and Ayla got the hang of making the plates.

Especially Zir, she may have a talent in this. Many original works were created.

[How about that? I made a wyvern figurine.]

She first made a shape by hitting the clay, after firing, it subsequently crumbled.

Though it wasn't repeated, the figurine was completed before we knew it.

The delivery this time are mainly plates, but it might be a good idea to pass these out as samples.

At the same time, the number of goblins that became interested in pottery increased to three. Even though all of them are all normal goblins, they're a valuable workforce.

[Gigigi.]

[Gigi—gi.]

[Gugega.]

The three goblins are enjoying a conversion with each other while making the plates. It looks like we can leave the plate-making to these three.

Well, Amy is needed for the finishing touches.

After Lalu's group finished their work of making a stockpile of clay, they disbanded.

Ruby has also returned to the house after collecting its share of the dug up earth.

[Thanks for the hard work, Ruby.]

Ruby softly trembled in happiness when it was thanked.

After clearing the 20 dishes quota, we increased our new products.

The preparations for tomorrow are now perfect. Too many things happened today. We quietly retired and slept soundly.

When I woke up in the morning, both my hands and legs had the fortune to be locked down and stiff again.

We could have woke up at any time because the promise for today didn't specify a certain time so I had plenty of time, but I still woke up early.

Then, maybe because of my stirring it caused her to wake up, Ayla's ears twitched and after some time, her eyes opened.

[Good morning, Ayla.]

I greeted her as her eyes opened and we looked at each other.

[Good morning, Mwaster~.]

Since she just woke up her words were a little messed up, I smiled wryly.

My right arm which was underneath Ayla's head turned and gently caressed her head. Ayla seems embarrassed but rubs her face against me.

As I was savoring that heartwarming cuteness, my head was turned to the left.

[Guwah.]

As my head was forcefully turned to the left, I uttered a strange sound. The person who made me utter such a sound grinned and greeted me with a smile.

[Good morning. Master.]

[G-good morning, Amy.]

After replying, Amy still looked dissatisfied. After thinking that I should do the same thing that I did to Ayla, I patted her head with my left hand.

[Wa~fuu~]

Looks like that fixed her mood.

[Judging by the flow, looks like I am next. But still, I doth not wish to hast mine head patt'd using thy legs.]

As Zir woke up, she loosened her restraints on my legs.

[Good morning, Zir. Sorry to break it to you, but I don't have that kind of hobby.]

[Tis the same for me. If be truly possible, I would like it if thou lay-to thy palms to pat mine head.]

Ayla and Amy have already left the bed. My arms are now free. Since that's the case, I gave Zir her long-awaited hug, she entwines her legs around me and embraces me with both arms.

As I hugged Zir hard with a *Gyuu-* sound, I got lost in her scent.

[Kufufu, passionate, art thou not? Yea though I doth not mind staying like this, but it dost not wend that way.]

As I looked behind me, Ayla and Amy were forming a line, waiting to be hugged.

As I regretfully released Zir from my arms, I hugged Ayla who lined up first.

[Mugyuuu~]

Ayla, while saying that moved her hands to my back and returned the hug.

After about 30 seconds passed, I released Ayla who was looking a bit iffy, I wonder if she's okay.

[Mugyuu~]

Next is Amy's turn. Amy also utters a *Mugyuu~* with her mouth?

As I thought, Amy wanted to be hugged for 30 seconds too.

Well, with this I thought that I can finally make breakfast, but Zir lined up behind Amy.

[I only got spoil'd once.]

Zir said that the other two got spoiled twice so she lined up again. I stopped Zir and hugged her lightly, then I declared that we will end the morning with this.

From this day on, [Two Morning Hugs] is established in our party.

Well, things like 'Hugging from behind doesn't count' or 'It's fine if it's just the arm', such rules and loopholes were argued over in the 'war under the sheets', but it doesn't matter now.

At last, morning preparations have ended. After inspecting the goods, we went to town. Of course, the goods were properly packed inside of Ruby's body.

Lalu and the others smoothed out the earth that Ruby had vomited, and I directed that a field was to be made there.

I knew that the goblins in this world don't do that, but I still instructed them to do so.

We reached the town without being attacked by monsters. I don't know if this is Lalu's doing but, it's uncertain whether there are any monsters around.

[Well then, let's immediately head to the Alchemist's Guild.]

[That's right. I bet Frank-san is waiting for us there inside.]

As we entered the alchemist's guild, the reception onee-san remembered appraising our work at that time and led us to where Frank-san was at once.

[Hello, welcome. I've been waiting for you.]

As we were guided to his reception room, Frank greeted us with a smile.

[I came to deliver the requested goods. Please confirm them.]

We opened the wooden box of plates at our feet, and passed the plate to Frank.

[Yes, certainly. But still, even looking at it is still beautiful.]

[And also, not just tableware but these kind of things were also prepared.]

The wyvern that Zir made and some other figurines were being lined up on the desk.

[It's handmade, that's why it has different shapes, what do you think about it?]

[Is this a [White Porcelain Figurine]?]

[Yeah, in my country, we believed that the effects of a talisman are real.]

Well it's not really a lie. Shisa and the other guardian lion-dogs were made of a porcelain that used powdered magic ores as the raw materials. There might be some effects.

[I see, is this shape a wyvern?]

[Yes, that's right.]

[Can you make other creatures?]

I glanced at Zir. She noticed my glance, and nodded lightly.

[Yes, it's possible. If you order something, I'll do it.]

In such situations, we told them there would be an additional charge for the labor and materials involved.

[Yes, yes. This is indeed what the nobles favor.]

After finishing our business, we can get the promised 10 gold coins

later at the guild.

We still have three weeks before the deadline but, Frank said that to deliver the goods as soon as possible, so I said that we'll do our best.

Next stop was the adventurer's guild. In order to get the prize of yesterday's competition.

Chapter 48

The Adventurer's Guild was packed when I walked in.

I had everyone wait at the entrance, and aimed for reception by myself.

I put some spirit into it and one way or another I advanced and pushed through the crowd of people. At last, I finally reached the reception desk.

"It's really packed today. Did something happen?"

"Welcome. A strong monster seems to have appeared near the town."

"Strong monster?" (TL: normal tone, people.)

"This is it."

The receptionist onee-san displayed a document, the contents which said that a Silver Grizzly had appeared near town.

Silver? It's not clear, maybe the monster is gray.

Apparently the monster boasts of fur that has the strength of metal.

It cannot be harmed by ordinary weapons.

"I'll be careful while going out of town. Besides, today I have come here to receive the prize from the competition."

"Ah, I heard about that. Please come to the back room."

“Please wait a moment, my companions are waiting outside.”

After calling to Ayla and everyone, I returned again to the receptionist onee-san.

We were guided to a room where you could see things such as robes and books, something like bones and dubious liquid, and on top of that there were things that I don’t even know what to call.

“Zir, choose what you might need. If you do not need it, let’s hand over the remaining items to the guild.”

“Kufufu, to has’t this many things to chooseth from is quite sore. Oh my, oh my. I am so joyous yond I couldst scream.”

When Zir finished inspecting the items that had already been laid out, she arbitrarily aimed for the big box at the back of the room.

“What is this?”

I tried to open it by putting all of my strength into it, but it wouldn’t open. When I tried to send for a little bit of help, a voice called out from behind me.

“Umm, Hibiki-san…”

The receptionist onee-san spoke up.

Apparently, it seems she wants to tell me something. It won't be a problem because Ayla and Amy have headed towards the box.

"Is something wrong?"

"Yes, please confirm the goods that have been previously disposed."

People's names were lined up in a row in the proffered inventory.

"Umm, is this a list of names?"

"Yes, so what about the [Disposed Goods]?"

At last, I realized what was being said here. In other words, this is an inventory of zombies which were [employed] by the necromancer.

"There was also a corpse that could not be identified, I was going to dispose of it because as one would expect a [Human Corpse] can not be handed over."

"Oh, thank you very much."

I probably felt uneasy during the talk because a [Human Corpse] was completely being treated as merchandise.

Well, it is a tool of trade for a necromancer, so I guess how corpses are handled in this world that has necromancers established as occupations will differ from my former world.

It seems it's not particularly a crime to possess a human corpse.

If you obtain the approval of the bereaved family that lives in the city, a [Fresh Corpse] can be transferred over with money, likely you do not even need such procedures as long as they died outside of the town.

The receptionist onee-san heard and did not dismiss it.

“When a necromancer is in a party, [Monster Zombies] are put in a box without disposing of them.”

The onee-san pointed at the box which Zir was about to open.

“Zi-Zir! Wait!!”

“Master? Anon, wherefore didst thee taketh mine han————d!”

It seems I was too late. Zir confirmed the contents of the box, screamed and fainted on the spot.

Fortunately, Ayla and Amy were safe because they were in a position where they could not see the contents, I quickly support the fainted Zir and it seems that she was uninjured.

“Umm~, is something wrong?” (TL: many things is wrong nee-san)

“No, it seems that I got excited too much. Also, excuse me, but I want to dispose of this [Monster Zombie].”

“Are you sure about that? I heard that monsters that have been [Zombified] are difficult to acquire though?”

When a monster is killed, it leaves materials and then disappears.

To make a monster into a zombie…

First, the monster is driven to the limit without killing it. Moreover, for it to become a zombie, minimize as much damage to it as possible.

Next, an abnormal status causes the monster to zombify. I think there are items or magic and such for this. However,【Ghost magic】seems to be useful.

At the end, after the monster receives the finishing blow it revives as a zombie dozens of seconds later.

When it's made it becomes a [Stray Zombie] and necromancers control zombies. Is this similar to a monster tamer?

This concludes my report. At last, he was able to reach the point where he could employ the zombies from a distance.

By the way, skeletons and so forth existed in a bone-like state from the beginning.

As for this, there is a theory that skeletal corpses that were abandoned were converted to skeletons, apparently the theory states that this is the only way that a monster of this form is birthed.

Well, whatever. Therefore a [Monster Zombie] is likely to sell at quite a high price.

If you have a connection with a necromancer buyer of course.

I had to ask because apparently it is possible to sell by using the network of the Adventurer's Guild.

That's really good to hear, because at the present time we can not afford to keep the zombie, so we declined it.

Because Zir fainted, I looked after her by giving her my lap as a pillow and resting on the bench within the lobby.

Then, someone approached us. There were other benches available, but they kept coming straight at me.

"Yo, [Annihilation]. We meet again."

The one coming over is the [Stew uncle]. I even ran into him a lot yesterday.

"Hello, is uncle aiming for the Silver Grizzly?"

"Stop with calling me an uncle, okay? That's right, I've been meaning to get me some huge prey from around here."

"Isn't that unreasonable recklessness?"

"Really, what mouth is saying these things. Listen here, now all those people who take up the extermination mission for the Silver Grizzly, those guys are the same ones who saw your duel that evening." (TL: idiom meaning stop talking bullshit)

"What do you mean?"

"Everyone got inspired by you. Such a decent fight, my blood is boiling for battle."

Everyone seems to be itching for a fight.

If say such a big prey like a Silver Grizzly appeared, it is always natural for those guys who wait-and-see to end up gathering together for a

subjugation.

"So, are you also participating in the subjugation?"

When trying to think of an answer, I felt a considerable amount of eyes from the surroundings. It's seems whether or not I'm joining is important information.

"No, I intend to decline this time. Well, it's likely I will participate if it's not been subjugated in one or two months."

My true feelings about this are… The Silver Grizzly seems to be considerably tough. Above all there is still that mission to find the [Demon] that was requested of me.

It's just a thought, but the surrounding air seems to have relaxed a little.

"Is that so? Though it's probable that you could kill it in no time."

"Not at all."

"Is that so?"

"That's right. I heard it's hide is terribly tough. Perhaps even my sword can't cut it."

"Still you seem to have a chance there."

I shrugged my shoulders and told the man that it was an overstatement. Anyway, I told him not to be reckless and I parted with the uncle again.

Ten minutes passed since I parted with the uncle. Zir had woken up, so we left the Adventurer's Guild.

“I’m fill’d with pangs of hunger, is’t not dinner time yet.”

We, who had gone out of the guild, decided to follow Zir’s suggestion and have lunch.

The menu had numerous meat dishes. However I want to eat fish, but there is nothing but river fish around here. They stink of mud and are not very tasty.

Should we venture out to a coastal village for the purpose of eating fish just once?

Well, there is still the quest about finding the [Demon].

“Ruby, was there a reaction?”

Ruby *trembled trembled* as if to convey [no]. However, it still quivers when it is a [yes], but it’s still possible to understand it.

Is this the effect of the monster tamer?

“So there’s nothing from the demon, huh.”

The [Demon Detector] I received from Giren did not detect anything at all.

The detector is the size of a washing machine and weight as one, too. In its current form it cannot be carried around.

However, it is obstructive. I strongly insisted on that. I was at a loss, when Ayla said [Let’s have ruby carry it]. (TL: poor ruby.)

I see, and in Ruby’s body we can still pay the [Demon Detector] by starting to throw in some magic stones.

The [Demon Detector] seems to be working without a problem in Ruby's body, so we decided to leave it in.

"Well, it's probably because we have walked nothing but around the Adventurer's Guild."

The effective distance of the detector seems to be about 100m. As such, I think it is short compared to the weight of the equipment, I heard that they were going to load the machine in a carriage and drive it around.

Was Giren going to lend out the carriage to us or try to sell it. What is that? A separate sale cheat?

Well, I did not buy it thanks to Ruby.

"How about we wander around where there is a lot a people for a bit?... It will be a date."

Amy was unmotivated, but said it was a thoughtful idea. However, it's not a date. Ayla showed no reaction.

"Let's do it, since there's no other way."

When we started to leave a shop, Ruby's body shook with a sudden *twitch*.

"Master, there seems to be a reaction."

It seems to be approaching this way rapidly.

“No way, did it notice us and is trying to attack?”

“No that isn’t possible, there’s no way to become aware of the detector even in the slightest.”

In other words, did it approach here by chance?

The target seems to have already reached the front of the shop. It will be quite a coincidence as it is if it passes by our shop.

If the target attacks, it will have a sharper detection range than the one we have.

We became tense from not knowing the other side’s attitude.

Shall we pass? Or do we attack?

Who is it?

“I’m sorry~ I overslept~”

The answer, [A shop assistant who overslept and was late for a part-time job].

Chapter 49

Demon.

It's an existence that ranks in the top tier among the vast number of monsters.

That power is more overwhelming than monsters not to mention humans.

[Run the other way if you meet a devil]. This seems to be the advice spoken by expert adventures.

Because it's not possible to win even if you fight back, they say that you should scatter and run away separately so that at least someone could get away save themselves.

Of course, humans also have the means to subjugate demons. I received the request of demon subjugation from Giren this time because there was a chance of success.

One item that is useful is an [Anti-Demon Killer]. It's harmless to humans but demons and monsters receive a large amount of damage.

They can be bought in a church but they're unexpectedly expensive.

I heard that [drugs that work on demons] can be bought at a church. Is it [Holy Water]? That's what I think I heard, isn't?

That's what Giren had said.

Damn, fantasy.

Well, why did I suddenly talked about this matter? The genuine [Demon] that reacted to the [Demon Detector] is too different from the provided information.

"I'm sorry, manager. I will change and enter the floor right away."

"No, it's fine. Latia-chan. You, can you just stop coming to the store?"

"N-no way, though I finally found a place to work at, to be fired again."

"I'm sorry, however, it is already impossible."

"Wh-what have I done wrong!? I tried my best, too."

The manager sighed deeply.

"Like today, you are always late for work."

"B-because there was trouble while I was going to work."

"The plates are often broken."

"Those plates broke before I even touch them."

"Above all, it is because the people whom you served collapsed one after another!!"

"I'm fired!?"

Isn't that last reason excessive? I spat out my drink. After all isn't she unrelated to that?

"Th-that's, um, I'm sorry."

She admitted it!? What! This … this girl, is she really a demon? Though she is certainly like demon in that humans around her collapse one after another.

Can such a fellow integrate their life into human society? In the first place, can demons live in a human society?

I rush and confirm her status immediately.

Latia Evilis (Half-demon)

Curse of the Half-demon.

Gives the abnormal state of【Coma】to people in the area.

The effect is proportional to the goodwill of the target.

The surrounding people collapsing is probably because of this curse. Because the proportion of goodwill is high, this girl who is liked by everyone, is burdened by the continuous coma events.

However, to be a half-demon, does that mean one of her parents is a demon?

Is this girl really the true culprit who gave direct orders to the necromancer?

When I asked the Book of Wisdom about half-demons, it said that it had not heard of it.

Then, have you heard of someone referred to as a demon and human crossbreed? Can children be born between demons and humans? I was asked on the contrary.

Anyway, we decided to follow this girl who got fired and was at a loss. I asked Ayla and the others to go ahead and finish shopping.

Latia was wearily looking down and shuffling down the narrow road. Her sorrow drifts from her back.

I have watched her for roughly 30 minutes, but I don't know where she is heading. Perhaps, she noticed us tailing her.

Though we observed her once more, however she simply seems depressed. Well, she could be acting.

"What, are you a stalker!?"

The girl, who I was stealthily following, had become disgusted. I made up my mind and decide to talk.

"Hya-hyai?"

She seemed to be surprised to be talked back to and gave a strange reply in return.

"I don't have any money. I also just got fired from my job."

Yes, I know that.

"My boobs are small so you should just stop!"

She went *Look* and pushed out her chest by putting both of her hands underneath her chest.

As for the shape, something like that will come soon, but I won't tell her that.

"Besides that, I don't have any parents, I'm foolish, I'm an extremely

ugly woman, nothing good will come out of me. Gusu."

Her negativity is unravels, it seems some switch has turn on. Her self torment continued for a while.

"Did you settle down?"

"Huh, yes, I'm sorry for my misunderstanding."

She thought I was a robber or something so she said she had no money and it would be good if he overlooked her. The dissatisfaction of everyday life seems to have exploded here.

"Well, I called out suddenly from the back alley so I'm also in the wrong."

"Um, I'm called Latia. I came to this town about 1 month ago."

"I'm Hibiki. Well, my job is an adventurer."

For a moment, I thought it might be better to hide the fact that I'm an adventure, but it will come out anyway if she checked.

"So you are an adventurer. Thank you for your care when it comes to this town.

Latia bows her head to me for some reason.

After that, we had a long talk about Latia and me for about two hours.

Although, Latia was the one that spoke mostly.

As you would expect, I couldn't ask her to her face "Are you a demon?"

“I don’t have a single friend in this town at all. Hibiki-san, could you be my friend?”

The vicinity had began to get dark, so we gradually returned to town when Latia said such thing.

“For a long time, a person who seems to get along well with me, would fall senselessly. However, It seems that Hibiki-san is safe with me, somehow?”

It’s because an abnormal state is not effective on me.

However, is this a trap? Perhaps it’s intention is to make friends when its own attack is not effective.

It might be too late, but we shouldn’t be getting along too much.

So like that, when I tried to say the words of refusal, she became aware of it.

Though a bright expression was on her smiling face, the hands that grasped me tightly trembled a little.

However, if what she said is all true, This girl who lost even her work in this town where she had no one to depend on and doesn’t know what may come tomorrow.

In this state, she didn’t ask for help but for a friend.

“O-oh, that so. Best regards.”

Before I noticed, I gave an ok.

“Is that true!? I’m so happy!! Please treat me well.”

Latia took both of my hands and swung them while humming. It seems she's truly happy.

In that case, there's no helping it if it is an act, I give up. I will be there for damage prevention so that nothing will happen to Ayla and the group.

I promised to Latia that we would meet up with her again and told her where. In this world of no cell phones, there are no methods to directly contact each other but only a promise to meet at an arranged location before parting.

"Now, since I don't have any lodgings, I'll meet you there. Well then, bye!!"

Latia lightly drops a bomb and leaves. So there are no lodgings either? I tried to call out and stop her, but her figure wasn't visible anymore.

Though if you aren't staying at an inn, where do you intend to go?

After parting with Latia, I met up with Ayla and the others, everyone was waiting having already finished shopping.

"Thanks for waiting."

"I just arrived myself, Master." (TL: MTL told me "I just came, Master")

Amy who remembered our exchange from the date, jokingly answered with a teasing laugh. I smile in return, then Ayla talked to me.

"Was that a demon as after all?"

"Hmm, it might not be. Though it seems that she has ties to demons."

As I spoke ambiguously, Zir also had a question.

“Incidentally, thee spake of that lady as a [Half-demon]. What pray bid is yond?”

“I don’t clearly understand. However her race seems to be [Half-demon].

“Then, thee knoweth nothing but which inn the lady is staying at.”

“Err, she looks like a homeless person. Also, we became friends.”

It was a surprise for the 3 people to hear.

“If possible, I think I will wait for Latia to reveal her faults.”

“Isn’t that dangerous?

“That might be. Therefore, I’ll meet her alone. Will you wait nearby?”

I told everybody that the next meeting was in two days, so we work out some countermeasures I decided to return to the inn.

In addition, I decided to go to the Adventurer Guild tomorrow.

The reason is that I told Latia that I’m an adventurer, I judged that I should be in the guild as much as possible.

===Change Scene=== (ED Note: To make you easy to notice it)

Compared with yesterday the number of adventurers is less because they have gone out for the subjugation.

“Yo, [Annihilation]. We sure meet a lot.”

“Uncle, did you not go out to subjugate the Silver Grizzly?”

Though I was motivated yesterday, there was no vigor in me today.

“Well about that~, after you left the guild there was a turnover when someone came and reported that a fellow had defeated the Silver Grizzly.”

It was indescribably unlucky. However, being able to subjugate it from the very first day it was discovered, there sure are some outstanding adventurers.

No, perhaps it was done several days ago, since I could only say that knew about it yesterday.

However, I heard talk that it was thought that the Silver Grizzly was a considerably powerful enemy.

Since they were able to defeat it they surely had to have considerable skill.

“And, who was it that subdued it?”

“Hmm, if I remember correctly it was either Evil or Evin.”

“Eh, Evil?”

“Well, I’m not too clear on the details. Apparently, that fellow is not registered in the guild yet.”

“I-is that so?”

After hearing the story from uncle, I became a little bit uneasy. I will ask Lord Giren for the full story. I wonder if he’ll at least tell me the name of

that fellow who defeated it.

I left the guild at a light trot and headed towards the residence of the Lord. Because it was sectioned off firmly even within the same building it took a little time.

When I passed by the courtyard where the duel was performed, Frey was seen in the corner of the courtyard. I intended to ignore her, but, anyhow her appearance was strange.

When thinking about that, I abruptly stood up and began to wander around the courtyard. After walking around a bit I return to the corner in the courtyard, I sat down holding my legs to myself. The so-called PE sitting position. (EN: Here's what it looks like https://www.pinterest.com/pin/353743745707167324/)

"Ah, geez. What!!"

Frey seems to have noticed me and spoke out. I was looked at with eyes like an abandoned dog.

I approached Frey while breathing out a huge sigh.

Meanwhile, Frey occasionally looked at this PE sitting position.

"What happened [Proud Knight]-sama?"

She reacted to my appeal and began to cry with a *waah-waah*.

Apparently it seems she reacted to [Knight], it was somewhat fragmented but I listened to her story.

“So, what’s the matter [Frey]?”

I called her name reluctantly because each time I called her knight, she began to sob.

“I’m *hic* no longer a *hic* knwight~”

“What did you say?”

“I was *hic* dismwissed as my *hic* lady’sh knwight~”

Apparently, instead of like an abandoned dog’s eyes, it seems she completely has the eyes of an abandoned dog.

Chapter 50

When I asked for Frey's story, after she was defeated in the confrontation with me, Flora's attitude seems to have become cold.

When Frey was in a rush this morning, she was going to ask to be pardoned and that she'll persevere for the sake of the young lady...

"That is fine. Frey, a true knight-san was found by me."

That is what she seems to have said. Afterwards, Frey seems to have took on that puzzling behaviour in the courtyard and kept at it for a long time.

Honestly, Frey being dismissed as the knight of the young lady is trivial, but the fact that a [True Knight-san] appeared at this time is interesting.

Quite conveniently, Giren and the young lady, and the new knight are apparently in Giren's reception room. I'll go and see their faces a little.

Of course, I also want information on the fellow who subdued the Silver Grizzly.

When I asked the person who looked like the receptionist to get me an appointment, I was told to go ahead to the reception room.

Is it alright with such a defense?

Ahead of me towards the reception room are two guards, they stood before the door. Indeed, the person at reception really was the receptionist.

As for things like defense, these two people were in charge of that.

“I have business with Giren-san.”

“Presently, the Lord is inside with a visitor.”

“That visitor is also acquainted with me. It’s Lady Flora, right? Even if you say that, I have come to meet him, so send me in.”

The two people are discussing something, well I don’t particularly intend to enter by force.

“Wait a little, I need to get confirmation.”

“Ah, that’s fine, while you’re at it please also inform him to recall the 2nd and 3rd clause in the contract.”

One of the guards entered inside and immediately it became noisy. Just when I thought the footsteps I heard were noisy the door opened at once.

“Really now, you bastard!!”

Apparently, he seems to have remembered.

2. While 1 is being followed, Hibiki has the right to meet Giren Brooks once a week.

Actually, with this wording, when I have asked it, Giren absolutely must meet me at that time.

What is one week? One week is divided into 7 days.

Then, where do you start off the new week after the 7th day?

Monday?

Sunday?

Or do I have to wait 7 days after I've last met with Giren?

Then, to begin with what criteria is clause 2 even abided by?

If I voluntarily went to meet with Giren, at that time does it turn out that I'm exercising my right?

Or if I met him by chance, does that mean I'm exercising my right?

The answer, [I don't know] would be given. (TL: what was this???) (EN: he is basically saying that since clause 2 is so vague, there are a lot of interpretations of how you could use it or misuse it)

And, when the answer is given, clause 3 comes into effect. By the way, what kind of effect it will take is not very clear either.

In other words, Giren, who cannot cancel the contract, can't refuse my visit.

Giren who had came out glared at me. It's likely he tried to immediately terminate the contract and failed.

"Was something wrong? Lord? I heard that Lady Flora was also here, I was thinking of giving my greeting but was it a disturbance?"

"What is that contract!? To become such thing…"

"Apparently, it seems to be busy. Shall I come again?"

When I said so, Giren panicked and stopped me

"Wait, please wait. Let's hear your business inside. Miss Flora is there, but do you not mind?"

Of course, it is one of my objectives. When I nodded, Giren guided me inside.

When I entered, Flora was sitting on a sofa while drinking tea and happily talking to the swordsman who stood nearby.

“Oh my, Evin-sama, you know even these kind of things~”

“No, it was merely that I was experienced.”

Apparently, that man was the one who took the place of [Flora’s knight] away from Frey.

Giren sat on the sofa inside the room and informed the two people of a visitor.

As Flora looked at us, *oh!* and seemed to be surprised and had her hand over her mouth.

The man lost interest and returned his gaze to Flora immediately after taking a look at us.

“It’s quite a coincidence to be seeing you again. Um, adventurer-san?”

Incidentally, I recalled that I had not introduced myself to this young lady.

“I am Hibiki.”

Then, the nearby man reacted.

“Hibiki? Are you [Annihilation] by any chance?

“Ehm, I’m also called by such a thing.”

The swordsman mutters *I see* and continues looking at me. I silently ward it off.

The one that broke the silence was the lord.

“Well, Hibiki-kun. What was your business?”

“I want to hear what had happened.”

I asked the name of the guy who subjugated the Silver Grizzly recently.

Then, Giren looked at the swordsman for some reason.

“It was I who subdued the Silver Grizzly.”

The swordsman introduced himself as Evin Kruger.

“I see, so it was you.”

“Ah, it was. By the way…”

Evin looked behind me at Frey who had become tiny.

Frey noticed the glance and cowered. Where did that haughty attitude from our first meeting go?

“Frey, was it? Did you still have some business?”

Frey somehow glared at Evin and declared.

“I-I haven’t confirmed if you are really suitable to be the Lady’s knight!!”

“Do you want a duel?”

“That, mugwu–”

While she was speaking, I silenced her (stupidity).

This fellow, just recently, does she not remember that she was defeated horribly in a duel?

I whisper in a low voice to Frey’s ear.

“You, if you compete with him as it is you will be defeated again.”

“Mu, mummu”

“Hold your tongue! Do you want to start the first punishment game here and now?”

Frey began to tremble with a *gatagata*, the threat of the punishment game was effective.

“If anything, I am not trying to obstruct you. On the contrary, I am trying to cooperate with you.”

My purpose was of course not helping Frey. But by raising Frey’s equipment and tactics as much as possible and pit her against Evin, my intention was to evaluate Evin’s ability.

I confirmed with Ruby, but there was no reaction of a demon on the detector. However, the timing of this guy's appearance couldn't possibly be unrelated.

If Frey were to be defeated, my only loss would be the cost of the equipment I bought for Frey.

Also, if I collect the equipment after the duel ends, it might not be too serious.

"Now then, that fellow told me that she wants to have the duel in three days."

"A-ah, understood."

Thus, the duel between Evin and Frey will be held in the courtyard of the lord's castle in three days.

We left Giren's castle and immediately went to Thill's shop.

The purpose is to buy Frey a new weapon.

"Since your build is good, how about you wield something long?"

"But I-I want to fight with a sword~"

"Thrill-san, do you have something good?

I ignore Frey and began choosing a weapon.

"Yeah, hey how about this?"

After Thrill watched Frey for a moment, he handed over a spear-like weapon.

“It’s a halberd, it has a fairly sharp blade.”

Frey, who had hesitated a little while ago, now had a different look in her eyes when she saw the weapon handed to her.

After having been handed over its full length was 2m, had a pointed tip like a spear, and attached to both sides were blades that bent backwards and were shaped like an axe.

It was rare for Thrill’s work to have any ornamentation. Apparently, the edged part of the spearhead was made entirely of demon ore.

“The spearhead is a little heavy but it is possible to handle, you can’t swing it unless you have sufficient strength, but you seem to be all right.”

“I want to swing it a bit.”

We exited the shop to watch over Frey. Frey confirmed that the surroundings were empty and slowly began to wield the weapon to test it.

Frey took up a fighting stance and swung the halberd. *Hyun* a high pitched sound reached my ear.

The halberd increased its speed gradually giving out a howl like a tornado.

As I thought, this fellow would be strong if she fought decently.

“It’s looking good. Have you used it before?”

“Yes, but I know only the basics.”

Perhaps, she learned it at a place like the knight’s academy.

I told Thill that I'll purchase the halberd.

Afterwards, I also received some toys that I ordered beforehand.

With the shopping ended, we went to the goblin's village.

Recently, I feel like I've been here more often than the inn in the town, well, it can't be helped.

"Lalu, please bring me several strong fellows from the village."

I had Lalu choose an opponent for Frey.

As for who appeared…

Two goblin elites with a long sword.

Two goblin elite lancers with an iron spear.

Lastly, an ordinary goblin with a sword in each hand.

"Is this goblin a strong fellow?"

Lalu nodded repeatedly, it hasn't evolved yet but was a considerable fighter.

Well, I'll understand when I observe it fight.

"In this training, if you show strength, I'll give you a name and weapon like Lalu."

The morale of the selected goblins fired up.

First, is the fight with goblin elite A.

The goblin elite is slightly bigger than a normal goblin, but smaller than a human adult.

Roughly it's physique is around a 12-14 year old human.

It will not be able to handle the halberd if it doesn't close in immediately.

Both begin to reduce the distance between each other *Jirijjiri*.

They both stopped moving closer, probably because one step further would enter the range of the halberd.

That idiot Frey didn't rush to attack on her own, she devoted herself to intercepting to make the best use of the halberd's ability.

She firmly bent her body and turned the tip of the halberd to the back edge to save strength. Her intention was conveyed to her opponent that she could wait for as long she liked.

The initiative to attack was given to goblin elite A, it rocked it's body frequently trying for it's intention to attack to not be read.

However, Frey was wholly unmoved. Goblin elite A grew impatient.

With some momentum it started running in one go. It readied it's sword in a low position in preparation to receive the blow from Frey that was sure to come.

However, no matter how much it waited the attack did not come. I doubt Frey has moved from that posture by as much as one step.

Goblin elite A judged that she might not be able to react, so it increased its speed further to try to move for an attack.

At that moment, Frey switched the position of her hand and thrust out with the butt-end of the halberd with both hands, it charged towards the goblin elite A.

It's a stab technique close to stick fighting arts and the like.

She stopped the butt-end of the spear near the base of goblin elite A's

throat.

She can even afford to worry about goblin elite A, this fellow, are you seriously not strong?

Afterwards, she trained with the other goblins, but the only ones who fought decently were Lalu and the dual wielding goblin.

As promised, I decided on the name for the goblin with the dual sword style.

“Your name will be Musashi. I will arrange to get a sword afterwards. Will it be necessary to prepare two?”

When confirming with Musashi, it nodded it’s head in agreement. Though there are some weapons that can be bought at Thrill’s store, there weren’t any that would go well together.

I will prepare a good sword next time.

Well, because Frey who won over the goblins is getting cocky, it is necessary to bully her a bit.

Good grief, I don’t want to do it, but it can’t be helped.

Chapter 51

Author note:

There were several cases where it was pointed out that the status was not seen.

I'm sorry.

I was going to describe the status seen in the confirmation scene with Ruby in the previous chapter.

I will write about the full details of the status in this chapter.

I'm sorry for not being clear.

"Grr"

"Come on, what are you doing? Will it hurt if you don't defend?"

I pass through while repelling the halberd with my sword and attack Frey with my fist in ultra-close combat.

I released the sword when it was about to slip into her bosom, the naked sword tumbled onto the ground.

"Tsk, that was too close!!"

"You fool, would you say the same thing to that guy?"

"Urgh"

When Frey steps backwards in order to use the halberd, one can block it by stepping in and closing the space. Under such a condition, a long

weapon sure becomes a hindrance.

I tried to make the shaft of the halberd go upward by deflecting it, but Frey evaded that by pulling back a little.

Because Frey's posture broke a little, I decided to pursue.

Using【Mental Force Magic】I aimed at Frey's abdomen and hammered her with the [Rubber Balls] that were scattered on the ground.

"Aaugh"

Frey got hit directly in the belly and fainted in agony.

Because she already suffered the attack of the [Rubber Balls] hitting her all over her body many times, bruises appeared everywhere.

"Owner, ten minutes have passed. It's time for a break."

[Book of Wisdom], who I asked to be the timekeeper, informed me that it was time to rest.

[Book of Wisdom] seems to have a very accurate biological clock. Well, it doesn't have a body though.

Amy murmured, *I've had to wait since yesterday*. As if to say to itself…

"To be accurate, it was 18 hours, 34 minutes, and 18 seconds ago. It can't be helped. Amy would just have to bear with it for a minute."

Because it said things like, Amy was on the verge of burning the [Book of Wisdom].

Well, about the surprising feats of the [Book of Wisdom] it should be left here.

The problem is the collapsed Frey who remains lying face down.

I stuffed a [Physical Strength Recovery] potion in her mouth, then used【Recovery Magic】to cast [Cure].

“Mmmgh”

“Yes, good morning.”

As expected, she woke up immediately. It would too much to quarrel with this kind of weak fellow.

“You, how many times did you eat those rubber balls? Did you like it that much?”

“It’s not that simple!! I was so desperately avoiding your attack that I forgot to repel them.”

“DON’T FORGET!!”

“Hyaa”

Rest ended and practice resumed. This time, from the onset, I shot several floating rubber balls at Frey.

“Wa-wait!! In the first place, what is a rubber ball!?”

The rubber ball is one of the toys I requested Thrill to make.

In a previous visit, I had a pleasant talk with Thrill about how rubber

was made. Apparently, there are plants that are able to produce rubber in this world, so I had him prepare some.

First, though there were various things like whether it can be used to reinforce armor or not, but from the story of using rubber bullets to suppress a mob, I wonder if it is possible to use it as a bullet from a magic bow, so I had it made.

In the center of the rubber ball is a demon ore and there is just enough rubber sap covering it. In the end, though I couldn't use it for a magic bow, it was nice that magic could permeate through it thanks to the demon ore.

When moving it with【Mental Force Magic】it flies with a fairly good speed, so for Frey's improvement, reluctantly, they are being used for special training.

"This is a rubber ball. It will be very painful if it hits you, but you won't bleed and it's difficult to die from it."

While saying this, I take aim and shoot one at Frey.

Swoosh, Frey heard the sound and avoided the ball which flew at her.

"Well, it's not painful if you avoid it. Did you finally learn?"

Why was such training being done? That's because I saw the Evin's status in the reception room.

Evin Kruger (Human)

LV.40 剣士　25歳

LV.40 Swordsman Age: 25

Skill:

【Swordplay】★★★

Bonus is applied when using weapons from the sword series.

The effect depends on the level.

LV.40 appears at last.

There is only the skill【Swordplay】, but it is considerably trained.

Also, he is guaranteed if he wields a sword.

Flamberge +3 (EN: it's a sword with a wavy blade, google it)

【Shave】+3

Attack that decreases the defense of the target.

The percentage of decreased defense is proportional to the attack.

【Inflict Poison】+1

When wounded by the blade, the abnormal state【Poison】is given to the target.

Quite a frightening sword. It's ability is effective against both humans and monsters.

I heard that the Silver Grizzly was an excellent monster when it comes to defense.

I thought that there had to be something because he had subjugated such a monster all alone.

Because of that fellow's sword defense is insignificant.

If a hit was received from that sword, shield and armor will steadily be worn down.

If the blade hit flesh and gouged it, the body will be inflicted with an ample amount of poison.

In other words, to be able to defeat him, one would need to concentrate on evasion and interception. For that reason we are doing this kind of training.

After the break, I shot the balls one after another at Frey.

About 10 balls in all surrounded Frey.

"Alright, today's intensive training will be done if you can repel all of the incoming attacks."

"R-really!?"

"However, if even one strikes your body…"

"…When it strikes?"

I smiled cheerfully and told her we were starting.

"W-WAIT A MINUTE!! IF I GET HIT? HEY, IF I GET HIT?"

There were various screams but soon she won't have any room to scream.

The rubber balls were scattered around Frey.

However, after dodging, the rubber balls return immediately.

It will be no use if she dosen’t hit all the rubber balls

The ball approached Frey from the front, but she intercepted it with the halberd calmly. That’s the first one.

The moment the first ball dropped, more balls attacked from the left and right.

The right ball got flicked with halberd, shortly after she dodged the one on the left. Second.

This time two balls drew near Frey’s back at the same time.

When Frey glimpsed behind her to confirm, the two balls dropped when she swung with one hit. With this it’s four in total. (TL:????? Where did 3 go)(EN: He’s counting the # of balls she hit, so those two balls are 3 & 4)

Three to four rubber balls were sent with different timings, Frey awaited their approach until the last moment then stepped in and somehow twisted her body to dodge them.

However, her posture was now slightly broken, and balls continuously assailed and grazed her body.

At the time her movement dulled.

She was being bombarded with balls one after another, her beautiful movements from before seem like a lie in front of this ragged figure.

“I-I’ve been hit already!! P-please stop!!”

I gently tell Frey who had pleaded and was pitifully crouching on the spot.

“Fool, training and punishment games are different. No matter how many balls you hit, I won’t stop until all the balls are knocked down.”

The ugliness of life is not sufficient for Frey.

Even with this training, if she doesn’t rise to my expectation then I will give up at once.

This is a training to reform her nature.

Naturally, because I can keep her healthy by using potions and recovery magic every time we reach a pause point, it is possible to work her hard as much as I like.

She understood that we won’t stop until the balls were knocked down. Frey stood up and attacked the barrage, though she hit the balls I resumed the attack.

It took 10 minutes for her to drop all the balls.

“Mainly, you are too honest. We are continuing until I give you permission to stop. Perhaps I might not notice?”

“S-such a cowardly thing!!”

“Really a fool, you are.” (EN: yoda speak :D)

This training, with it’s impossible to achieve contents, was forced onto Frey from the beginning.

How to overcome it, I wanted to see if she could recover from failure.

Though the result was hopeless, but there might be some meaning in this harvest.

Frey recovered by force and training resumed.

In the end, though Frey repeated this training dozens of times until the

day fell, but there was no clear accomplishment.

Though Frey was depressed, she spent less time crouched down and was hardly getting hit.

Though the results were sufficient for the first day, I did not tell Frey.

Because this fellow will immediately get cocky.

“G-geez it’s impossible~. P-Please no more recovery~.”

I informed Frey, who without a single wound was face down on the ground grumbling, that the training had ended.

“Well, today’s training has ended. Tomorrow, I am going out in the morning but don’t worry the goblins will keep you company.”

Since one on one they will not be able to compete with Frey, I informed her that several of the goblins will cooperate to bring her down. (TL: hehehe ^~^)

When training with Frey, the goblins’ cooperation can be polished. Killing two birds with one stone.

“I-I wonder if I can really win?”

Because she’s been bullied a little too much, Frey has become timid.

If I praised her, she will be conceited, however, I’m hesitant in how far I can break her self-confidence. (TL: sounds like training sex slaves.)

What a troublesome fellow.

“It will depend on you.”

I answered Frey with a few words. Though I don’t know if it was effective, with her legs slightly trembling she stood up using her partner (halberd) to pull up her weight.

“I won’t say things like [You can do it if you try]. Because I hardly know anything about you.”

“I-Is that so.”

“Well, for the time being I’ll be your ally for these 3 days. There’s the punishment games also.”

“Y-yes. I ask for your best regards.”

I have never forced a punishment game so far. (TL: did he said that he punish Frey with rubber ball?)

Though I intended to work her hard with a punishment game if she ran away, she is handling the training although she is complaining.

Well, if she can completely endure the training, there is a possibility of winning against Evin. To clear her debt I also need to think of punishment games.

Now, the day to meet Latia is tomorrow. It is part of the investigation, but my chest dances when I think of meeting with the girl.